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JOURNAL	International Journal of Innovative Technologies in Economy
p-ISSN	2412-8368
e-ISSN	2414-1305
PUBLISHER	RS Global Sp. z O.O., Poland
ARTICLE TITLE	ROLE OF FINANCIAL RESOURCE MOBILIZATION IN ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO WATER IN ARID AND SEMI ARID AREAS IN KENYA
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ARTICLE INFO	Benedict Mutinda Kimwaki, Andrew Rage Eysimkele. (2023) Role of Financial Resource Mobilization in Enhancing Sustainable Access to Water in Arid and Semi Arid Areas in Kenya. <i>International Journal of Innovative Technologies in Economy</i> . 1(41). doi: 10.31435/rsglobal_ijite/30032023/7941
DOI	https://doi.org/10.31435/rsglobal_ijite/30032023/7941
RECEIVED	16 January 2023
ACCEPTED	15 February 2023
PUBLISHED	18 February 2023
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ROLE OF FINANCIAL RESOURCE MOBILIZATION IN ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO WATER IN ARID AND SEMI ARID AREAS IN KENYA

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.31435/rsglobal_ijite/30032023/7941

ARTICLE INFO

Received 16 January 2023
Accepted 15 February 2023
Published 18 February 2023

KEYWORDS

Financial Resources;
Resource Mobilization; Arid
and Semi Arid Areas,
Sustainable Access to Water.

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to establish the role played by financial resource mobilization in enhancing sustainable access to water in arid and semi arid areas in Kenya. Access to water is instrumental in driving economic development and stimulating the productivity of a country's population. Lack of safe and clean water has been a major challenge to most of the Kenyan households, especially those in arid and semi arid areas. Ensuring adequate financial resources would be essential to stimulate implementation of key programmes that ensure sustainable access to water. This study specifically sought to assess the role played by resource mobilization skills, government funding, external funding sources, budgeting and planning and accountable use of financial resources on the sustainable access to water in arid and semi arid areas in Kenya. Using a cross-sectional research approach, the study surveyed 20 respondents drawn from two main water development agencies in Kenya. A structured questionnaire was used to collect the primary data. The data was analysed using descriptive statistics and findings presented in tables. The results revealed that financial resource mobilization skills were essential in promoting sustainable access to water. The study further revealed that government funding from both national and county governments were essential in ensuring implementation of water programmes aimed at enhancing access to water. External sources of funds were also found to be critical in enhancing sustainable access to water. The study recommends that the government should increase allocations to the water agencies so as to promote the implementation of key programmes for enhancing sustainable access to water in arid and semi-arid areas. Accountability should also be upheld so as to ensure that the financial resources are responsibly utilized for sustainable access to water in the arid and semi arid areas.

Citation: Benedict Mutinda Kimwaki, Andrew Rage Eysimkele. (2023) Role of Financial Resource Mobilization in Enhancing Sustainable Access to Water in Arid and Semi Arid Areas in Kenya. *International Journal of Innovative Technologies in Economy. 1(41)*. doi: 10.31435/rsglobal_ijite/30032023/7941

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Water is an essential commodity that plays an integral role in everyday life. Despite water being the main component on earth, its scarcity in households has been a menace for years. Most governments including in developed countries have been working tirelessly to enhance water access, as this is an instrumental economic driver (Jiwani & Antiporta, 2020). According to Narzetti and Marques (2021), enhancing sustainable access to water requires committed initiatives from both public and private industry players. This commitment requires essential focus on water projects aimed at

collecting this important natural resource and dispensing it to households. To achieve this, one factor remains constant in most scenarios, and this is the financial resources. Any project or initiative aimed at enhancing access to water requires adequate financing.

According to Jiwani and Antiporta (2020), as much as water is a natural resource and covering the largest mass of the earth, enhancing its access is a tedious and costly process. In most cases, families live in areas where this water is not available and even if it is available, it is not viable for consumption. Therefore, to ensure access to this precious commodity to the households, financial resources would be an integral input (Verbyla et al., 2021).

Murray, Kotha and Fisher (2020) define financial resource mobilization as the process of obtaining the required funds for a given project, and effectively utilizing the funds to achieve the set goals and objectives. Oyinlola, Adedeji, Bolarinwa, and Olabisi (2020) on the other hand defines financial resource mobilization as a management function that involves planning for the projects, highlighting the key sources of funds to finance the projects, actualizing the sources to obtain the funds, and channeling the funds to the projects for their implementation. Being a management function, therefore, the ability to mobilize financial resources becomes one of the essential skills of managers in an organization (Oyinlola et al., 2020). To mobilize these finances, one must have the appropriate leadership skills to engage different stakeholders, and strategic enough to identify key strategic points that required the obtained funds.

According to the World Health Organization (2022), inadequate access to clean and safe water remains a threat to human life, with over 820,000 people especially children dying every year due to consumption of unsafe water. This shows a dire need for enhancing access to water as a life-saver. According to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), more than 4 billion people globally experience water scarcity, out of which over 2 billion live in areas where there is hardly any access to water, exposing them to dehydration and starvation (UNICEF, 2021). The World Bank (2019) reported that countries lost over \$260 billion annually over water inaccessibility, further showing how essential the commodity would be to stimulate economic growth and development. The Water organization recommends that the only solution that would bring an end to the water scarcity across the globe and particularly in developing countries like Kenya would be to heavily mobilize financial resources and invest such resources in water projects. Further, Winpenny (2015) suggests that mobilizing financial resources should be a top priority to solve the water scarcity issues and ensure every household has access to safe and clean water.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

According to USAID (2019), arid and semi arid areas suffer the most as far as inaccessibility to water is concerned. These areas despite covering the largest land mass in the country, they have been the most hit by any drought or insufficient rainfall, with residents losing livelihoods out of such occurrences. According to UNICEF (2022), over 9.9 million people in Kenya lack sustainable access to water, and end up drinking water directly from contaminated surfaces, a threat to their health and wellbeing. This notwithstanding, on average, Kenyan households in rural areas spend up to the tune of \$38 a month in water, and this may double in arid and semi arid areas (Water Organization, 2021).

According to the World Bank (2021), investing in water projects would be a strategic move to enhance the access to water particularly in developing countries. In Kenya, water projects and other initiatives to enhance sustainable access to water have failed to achieve the intended results mainly due to lack of adequate financial resources to run such programmes (Danilenko, 2020). According to Leigland, Trémolet, and Ikeda (2016), mobilizing financial resources would be instrumental in supporting water programmes and initiatives thus enhancing access to water in dry areas. According to OECD (2022), as a result of lack of adequate resources, connecting communities to water has yielded meagre results. Despite the underlying evidence on the need for financial resources to enhance the access to water in arid and semi arid areas, this lacks empirical backing in a Kenyan perspective. Moreover, it remains unclear whether the resources are adequately mobilized to meet the scarcity. It is on this merit that this paper sought to assess the effect of financial resource mobilization on sustainable access to water in arid and semi arid areas in Kenya.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1.3.1 General Objective

The main aim of this paper is to assess the role played by financial resource mobilization in enhancing sustainable access to water in arid and semi arid areas in Kenya.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

1. To examine the role of financial resource mobilization skills on sustainable access to water in arid and semi arid areas in Kenya
2. To determine the role of government water funding on sustainable access to water in arid and semi arid areas in Kenya
3. To examine the effect of external funding sources on sustainable access to water in arid and semi arid areas in Kenya
4. To find out the role of financial resource budgeting and planning on sustainable access to water in arid and semi arid areas in Kenya
5. To establish the effect of accountability on sustainable access to water in arid and semi arid areas in Kenya.

1.4 Research Questions

1. What is the role of financial resource mobilization skills on sustainable access to water in arid and semi arid areas in Kenya?
2. What is the role of government water funding on sustainable access to water in arid and semi arid areas in Kenya?
3. What is the effect of external funding sources on sustainable access to water in arid and semi arid areas in Kenya?
4. How does financial resource budgeting and planning influence sustainable access to water in arid and semi arid areas in Kenya?
5. What is the effect of financial accountability on sustainable access to water in arid and semi arid areas in Kenya?

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study will add value to a number of parties. First, the local communities in the arid and semi arid areas will benefit from the findings in that enhanced access to water as a result of financial resource mobilization will be a major boost to their livelihoods.

The government agencies tasked with water management and enhancing access to water in arid and semi arid areas will also benefit from the findings of this study. This is because through the findings, the management of these agencies will gain knowledge on why mobilizing financial resources is an essential enabler to sustainable access to water by enhancing the smooth running of water programmes and projects.

Researchers and academicians will also gain from the findings of this study, in that they will borrow a leaf on the role played by financial resource mobilization in programmes and projects. Through the findings, they can point out gaps to fill in their research works.

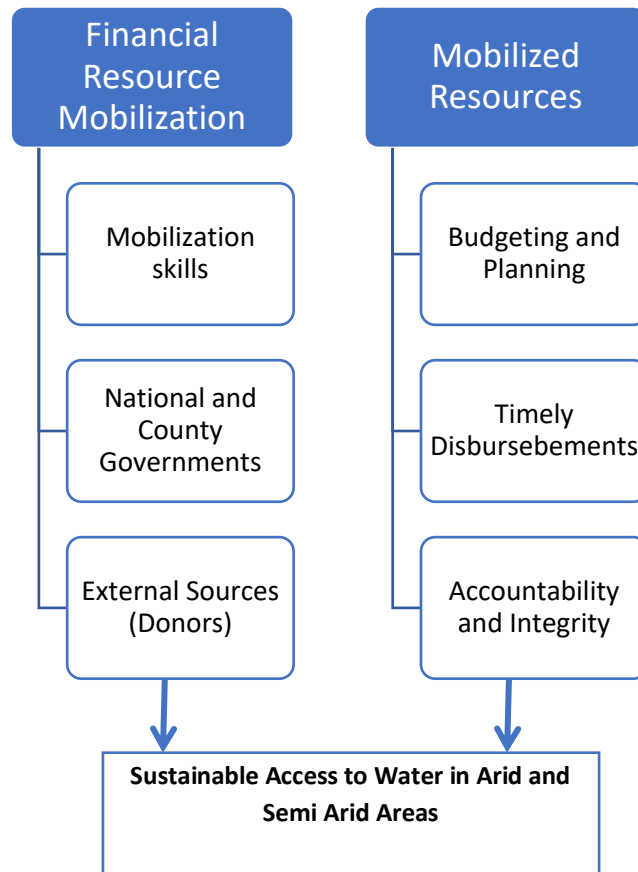
2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Foundation

This study is grounded on resource dependence theory by Pfeffer and Salancik (1978). The theory points out those organizations carry out transactions amongst themselves and depend on one another for prosperity and continued growth. According to Pfeffer and Salancik (1978), for organizations to operate smoothly, they need key resources which enable the running of internal and external operations. However, it is difficult for any organization to be self-sufficient thus they ought to mobilize the extra required resources in order to continue operating (Drees & Heugens, 2013). Resources are basis of power for every organization, and at the same time, these resources are scarce. The only way for organizations to sustain their operations in a world with scarce resources therefore, is through mobilizing the resources from other organizations in the same environment (Biermann & Harsch, 2017).

The resource dependence theory is relevant in this study in that it shows the need for resources for effectiveness. Access to water requires resources, and particularly financial resources. The organizations tasked with enhancing water accessibility in arid and semi arid areas can achieve their mandate by mobilizing the financial resources. As the theory suggests, this mobilization can be the main driver of success if it starts from the most accessible organization (Kholmuminov, Kholmuminov, & Wright, 2019). The water agencies in Kenya can mobilize resources from local banks, the county and national governments as well as from donors. This interdependence would be an integral process to ensure the agencies have adequate resources to run their operations thus enhancing access to water in the areas.

2.2 Conceptual Framework



2.3 Review of Empirical Literature

A number of studies have been carried out on the role played by financial resource mobilization in enhancing access to water accessibility. Leckie, Smythe, and Leflaive (2021) assessed the financing of water programmes and its role in enhancing water security in Asia and the Pacific. The study revealed that financial resources were integral in promoting water security by stimulating effective implementation of water programs and projects. Their findings are supported by Pories, Fonseca, and Delmon (2019) who revealed that mobilizing adequate financial resources for water projects is an essential move to stimulate sustainable access to water. According to Pories et al., water scarcity is a tussle that can only be resolved by enhanced funding and ensuring that the funds are responsibly utilized to enhance water connectivity to households.

Alaerts (2019) assessed the financing of water and contemplated that financial resources are the main solution to the water scarcity problem. According to Alaerts (2019), insufficient water access is a prerequisite to diseases and slower economic growth, thus the main solution would be to continually and adequately finance water related programmes. This compares with the findings by Goksu, Trémolet, Kolker, and Kingdom (2017) who indicated that mobilizing adequate financial resources to finance water connectivity would be an essential driver to sustainable water accessibility.

According to Goksu et al., even commercial resources of funds such as bank loans can be utilized to finance water programmes, owing to the essentiality of water accessibility in promoting economic growth and development. Andres et al. (2019) on the other hand consider strategies like water subsidies as essential moves to enhance financing for water accessibility. Financial resource mobilization as established by Gebhardt, Zeigler, and Mourant (2022) is a critical move to ensure seamless flow of water programs thus enhancing access to water among households.

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a quantitative methodology grounded on cross-sectional research design. The cross-sectional research approach enabled collection and analysis of primary cross-sectional data thus intensively responding to the research questions.

The target population of the study comprised of water development agencies in arid and semi-arid areas in Kenya. There are 9 water development agencies in Kenya. These agencies are mandated to carry out national water projects in their allocated counties. Agencies such as The Northern Water Works Development Agency (NWWDA) and Tanathi Water Works Development Agency (TAWWDA) entirely cover arid and semi arid counties. The study focused on these two agencies. Using purposive sampling, the study sampled 20 respondents drawn from the two agencies.

The sampled respondents were surveyed using a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was administered both physically and electronically to enhance a high response rate. The collected data was analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Descriptive statistics were used.

4.0 RESEARCH FINDINGS

4.1 Response Rate

The study sampled 20 respondents, out of which 17 dully filled the questionnaires and handed them back for analysis. This represented a response rate of 85%, which was considered to be an adequate representation of the sample and enough for analysis.

4.2 Financial resource mobilization skills and sustainable access to water

The study sought to assess the role played by financial resource mobilizations skills and competencies on sustainable access to water in arid and semi arid areas in Kenya. The respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement with key statements on financial resource mobilization skills among their finance managers and the results are as shown in Table 1 below. As the results portray, majority of the respondents agreed that their respective agencies had leaders who had the capability to mobilizing for financial resources (mean = 3.56). They also agreed that the management team had negotiation skills to obtain the best deals for the agencies (Mean = 3.62) and that the finance management team possessed the capability to advice the agency on the best sources to outsource funds (Mean = 3.44). They however disagreed that the management identified financial skills as one of the training needs for the finance management team (Mean =2.71).

Table 1. Financial Resource Mobilization Skills

Statement	Mean	Std. Dev.
The agency has leaders who have the capability to mobilize for financial resources	3.56	1.17
The management team has negotiation skills to obtain the best deals for the agency	3.62	1.15
The finance management team possess the capability to advice the agency on the best sources to outsource funds	3.44	1.23
The management identifies financial skills as one of the training needs for the finance management team	2.71	1.59

4.3 Government water funding and sustainable access to water

The study sought to assess the role played by government water funding on sustainable access to water resources in arid and semi arid areas in Kenya. The respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement with key statements on government funding, and the findings are

as summarized in Table 2 below. As the results portray, majority of the respondents disagreed that the national government allocated adequate financial resources to the agencies (Mean = 2.14) and that the county governments supported the agencies financially where necessary (Mean = 2.07). The respondents further disagreed that any funds allocated by the government are channeled to water-related activities (Mean = 2.19) but agreed that there were several water projects stalled due to insufficient government funding. The findings imply that government funding is not adequate to meet the financial needs of the agencies for them to stimulate access to water in the region.

Table 2. Government Funding

Statement	Mean	Std. Dev.
The national government allocates adequate financial resources to the agency	2.14	1.96
The county governments supports the agency financially where necessary	2.07	1.89
Any funds allocated by the government are channeled to water-related activities	2.19	1.74
There are several water projects stalled due to insufficient government funding	3.77	0.92

4.4 External funding sources and sustainable access to water

The study sought to assess the effect of external funding sources on sustainable access to water in arid and semi arid areas in Kenya. A five-point Likert's scale was used and the findings are shown in Table 3. As the results portray, a slight majority of the respondents were in agreement that their respective agencies often received funds from donors to support water accessibility in the communities (Mean = 3.21). The respondents agreed that the management of their respective agencies sought audience from other non-government agencies to fund the agency's activities and that there were external bodies that seek to carry out water projects through the agencies. The respondents disagreed that there was a policy framework on how external and non-governmental organizations can fund the agencies to carry out their mandate (Mean = 2.78), but agreed that increasing the external funding would be instrumental in enhancing the agencies ability to stimulate water accessibility in the region.

Table 3. External Funding Sources

Statement	Mean	Std. Dev.
The agency often receives funds from donors to support water accessibility in the communities	3.21	1.10
The management of the agency seeks audience from other non-government agencies to fund the agency's activities	3.45	1.07
There are external bodies that seek to carry out water projects through our agency	3.66	1.02
There is a policy framework on how external and non-governmental organizations can fund the agency to carry out its mandate	2.78	1.95
Increasing the external funding would be instrumental in enhancing the agencies ability to stimulate water accessibility in the region	3.89	0.83

4.5 Financial resource budgeting and planning and sustainable access to water

The study sought to find out the role of financial resource budgeting and planning on sustainable access to water in arid and semi arid areas in Kenya. The findings as shown in Table 4 revealed that most of the respondents agreed that their respective agencies had effective budget for their intended expenditures on water projects (Mean = 3.51). They however disagreed that the available budget was adhered to when implementing water programs (Mean = 2.78). The respondents agreed that the management ensures adequate planning during budgeting process to ensure funds are allocated where they are most needed but disagreed that the large part of the agency's budget goes to its core mandate which is to enhance water accessibility. This shows that the allocated funds are not effectively budgeted for to enhance access to water in the region. It also implies that the immediate mandate of the agencies which is to ensure sustainable access to water among the households is not effectively focused on in their budgets.

Table 4. Financial resource budgeting and planning

Statement	Mean	Std. Dev.
The agency has an effective budget for its intended expenditures on water projects	3.51	1.09
The available budget is adhered to when implementing water programs	2.78	1.87
The management ensures adequate planning during budgeting process to ensure funds are allocated where they are most needed	3.22	1.54
The large part of the agency's budget goes to its core mandate which is to enhance water accessibility	2.93	1.82

4.6 Financial accountability and sustainable access to water

The study sought to establish the effect of financial accountability on sustainable access to water in arid and semi arid areas in Kenya. The respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement on key statements regarding financial accountability. The findings are as summarized on Table 5. As the results portray, a slight majority of the respondents agreed that the allocated funds in their respective agencies were accountably utilized (Mean = 3.22) and that there were annual audits to assess whether the funds were accountably utilized (Mean = 3.56). The respondents were neutral on the statement that there were no reported incidences of corruption and misappropriations in their respective agencies (Mean = 3.02) but disagreed that the success of the agencies in enhancing water accessibility could be attributed to accountable use of financial resources (Mean = 2.97). The results imply that accountability could be a big issue in the agencies, thus affecting the accessibility of water among the communities in arid and semi arid areas.

Table 5. Financial Accountability

Statement	Mean	Std. Dev.
The allocated funds in our agency are accountably utilized	3.22	1.40
There are annual audits to assess whether the funds were accountably utilized	3.56	1.12
There are no reported incidences of corruption and misappropriations in the agency	3.02	1.79
The success of the agency in enhancing water accessibility could be attributed to accountable use of financial resources	2.97	1.88

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

The study findings have revealed that the skills to mobilize financial resources among the management of the agencies are essential in stimulating access to water. This is an indication that the ability to seek extra sources of funds is a critical aspect that significantly influences access to water among the communities living in arid and semi-arid areas. It is concluded that having the right mobilization and negotiation skills as well as financial management skills is critical for effective implementation of water programs thus enhancing access to water.

The study concluded that government funding is one of the major sources of funds for the water agencies. The funding is however not adequate to meet the financial needs of the agencies and stimulate their mandate to enhance access to water. The funding ought to be enhanced in order to enhance the capability of the agencies to invest in water projects for water accessibility.

External funding from donors and other international agencies such as UNICEF is essential for enhancing access to water. The study concluded that this funding has not been adequate thus making the agencies incapable of implementing key programs to enhance sustainable access to water. The government should come up with policies that allow and provide guidance on the management of these agencies to seek external funding from international partners and donors. This will go a long way in enabling the agencies perform their mandate including investing in water projects for increased access to water among the communities.

Budgeting is essential for effectiveness of the mobilized resources in enhancing access to water. The budgeting has not been effective in ensuring access to water in arid and semiarid areas. The budget should be properly planned to ensure that the priorities are on the essential duties of the agencies. Accountability was also found to be insufficient, and this could affect the effective utilization of the mobilized funds. It is therefore recommended that the management of the agencies should give priority to accountability and responsible use of available funds. This will ensure that the agencies have adequate financial resources to invest in water projects that enhance sustainable access to water in arid and semi arid areas in Kenya.

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