

**ASSESSMENT OF WATER SECTOR REFORMS ON ENHANCING SOCIO-  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MANDERA COUNTY, KENYA**

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## ABSTRACT

Water sector reform was supposed to enhance water provision in all Counties of Kenya but this has not been realized. The purpose of this study was to investigate the role of water sector reforms on enhancing socioeconomic development in Mandera County. The specific objectives were; to investigate the effect of operational cost on socioeconomic development in Mandera County; to examine the extent to which community participation influence socioeconomic development in Mandera County; to explore the influence of policy on socioeconomic development in Mandera County; and to assess the extent to which sustainability concern influence socioeconomic development in Mandera County. To achieve these objectives the study employed a descriptive research design. The target population was 540 of which a sample size of 54 was used being 10% of the target population. Questionnaires were the main tool for data collection. A computer aided Statistical Package for Social Sciences were employed for data analysis. Data was analyzed using the correlation analysis and a multiple regression. The major findings of the study were that, the regression value demonstrates that there is a strong effect of independent variables on dependent variable and hence operational cost, community participation, policy and sustainability concern affects socioeconomic development up to 95% of variation. It was also found that majority comprising 64% of the total participants indicated that operational cost affected socioeconomic development in Mandera County, 68% of the total participants indicated that community participation influenced socioeconomic development in Mandera County, 76% of the total respondents indicated that policy affected socioeconomic development in Mandera County and 72% of the total participants indicated that sustainability concern influenced socioeconomic development in Mandera County. The study recommends that, the water supply agency should ensure that operation costs are low, community participation should begin as soon as a community has requested a water supply facility. A policy framework should be put in place to help streamline the water sector. Water should not be over-exploited but naturally replenished and facilities should be maintained in a condition which ensures are liable and adequate water supply.