Organization for Sustainable Development Africa (OSDA)
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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

WASH Engineer · Integrated Lifesaving WASH and Cash Assistance – Mandera County

Position	**WASH Engineer**
Location	Mandera Town, with frequent travel to project sites in Mandera West (including Dandu) and Mandera South Sub-Counties (Mandera County)
Reporting to	Project Manager
Contract duration	Eight (8) months
Posting date	20th November 2026
Closing date	**27th November 2026, 5:00 PM East African Time**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 About OSDA

Organization for Sustainable Development Africa (OSDA) is a youth-led national non-governmental organization working with communities in Northern Kenya. OSDA's mandate over the years has been Humanitarian Response, Climate Action, Women and Youth Empowerment, Health and Nutrition, Peacebuilding and Governance, Research and Advocacy, Food Security and Livelihood (FSL), and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). OSDA is a forward-thinking, community-focused organization dedicated to addressing the pressing socio-economic challenges facing vulnerable communities in Northern Kenya, Somali Region of Ethiopia and Somalia. Our work is grounded in the belief that sustainable development is key to creating empowered communities that can thrive amidst adversity.

OSDA's programs are designed to foster long-term resilience, promoting peaceful coexistence and ensuring that vulnerable populations are equipped to overcome future challenges. With a strong emphasis on partnerships and community-led approaches, OSDA is committed to delivering impactful, evidence-based interventions that uplift women, youth, and marginalized groups. Through our various initiatives, we strive to promote self-reliance, improve livelihoods, and build resilient communities across Northern Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia.

OSDA is headquartered in Mandera County. It has a liaison office in Nairobi and offices in Garissa and Moyale. OSDA is also registered in Ethiopia and Somalia with the Federal Governments and Somali state of Ethiopia.

1.2 Project Overview

OSDA is implementing a ten-month project titled **'Integrated Lifesaving WASH and Cash Assistance for Crisis-Affected Communities in Mandera County'** funded through the OCHA-managed Country-Based Pooled Fund (CBPF) for Kenya. In Mandera County, the project aims to reduce excess mortality and morbidity from acute food insecurity and waterborne disease among drought- and flood-affected IPC Phase 4 households, children under five, pregnant and breastfeeding women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable pastoral and agro-pastoral people in Mandera West (including Dandu) and Mandera South Sub-Counties (Mandera County).

The overarching objective of the project is to prevent further deterioration of food security and WASH conditions among vulnerable pastoral and agro-pastoral people (men, women, girls and boys) by providing 75% Minimum Food Basket cash to 2,145 IPC Phase 4 households (1,359 in Mandera West and 786 in Mandera South) and emergency WASH. Under WASH in Mandera County, the project will rehabilitate, upgrade and solarize five strategic multi-use water systems, giving people access to sufficient safe water to Sphere standard; train five Water Operators; and reach the targeted people with hygiene messaging through trained community health promoters.

2. POSITION SUMMARY

The WASH Engineer will provide technical oversight of all water infrastructure works under the project in Mandera County: the rehabilitation, upgrading and solarization of five existing strategic multi-use water systems. The role assesses the existing sources, verifies designs and Bills of Quantities, supervises contractors, certifies completed works and leads handover to the county department of water and the Water Operators, while supporting Water Operator training so that the systems remain functional after the project. The WASH Engineer will work closely with the county department of water, the WASH Officer, procurement, MEAL and other partners, ensuring works meet Sphere standards and are safe and accessible for women, older people and persons with disabilities.

3. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

i. Technical Studies, Design and Procurement Support

- Conduct technical assessments of the five existing water sources with the county department of water, covering source yield, water quality and the condition of pumps, solar systems, storage and distribution.
- Arrange yield testing and accredited-laboratory water quality testing of the five sources before works, and prepare solar sizing, designs and Bills of Quantities where required.
- Ensure environmental and social screening of the five rehabilitation sites and that any NEMA and Water Resources Authority (WRA) requirements are met.
- Verify the revised (September 2026) Bills of Quantities, specifications and designs for the five rehabilitation sites against site conditions before tender.
- Agree the scope of works at each site with the county department of water, using the county water-point status lists, so that works typically cover solar pumping, replacement of failed pumps, motors, draw pipes and cables, elevated storage, kiosks, troughs, fencing and short distribution lines.
- Prepare tender documents (technical specifications, drawings and Bills of Quantities) for the rehabilitation works, support the Procurement Officer in the evaluation of bids and provide technical input to contractor contracts.

ii. Construction Supervision and Quality Assurance

- Supervise contractors on the rehabilitation, upgrading and solarization of the five water systems, ensuring compliance with designs, specifications, timelines and budget.
- Conduct regular site inspections, maintain site instructions and progress records, and log progress on KoBo with GPS and consented photographs.
- Ensure designs provide separate troughs for small and large livestock, kept apart from domestic taps, and that water points are accessible and safe for women, older people and persons with disabilities.
- Certify completed works, verify contractor payment certificates against certified milestones, with 10% retention held until the end of the defects liability period, and compile as-built drawings and completion reports for each system.
- Ensure contractors apply occupational health and safety, environmental safeguards and OSDA's Code of Conduct and PSEA policy on all sites.
- Act as risk owner for WASH implementation risks in the project risk register (contractor delays, poor-quality works, low source yield, theft of solar equipment, breakdowns after handover) and apply the agreed mitigation measures.

iii. Water Quality, Functionality and Sustainability

- Coordinate with county technicians on water quality and yield testing before and after works, and on running repairs, so that supply stays close to the Sphere standard of 15 litres per person per day.
- Set up functionality, yield and downtime tracking for all systems, including joint checks at handover and one month after handover, and trigger repairs where a system is down or below standard.
- Support the WASH Officer and the county department of water to train the five Water Operators on basic operation and maintenance, record-keeping and tariff collection.
- Lead joint functionality checks and the technical handover of completed systems, with handover notes to the county department of water and the Water Operators so routine care continues after the project.

iv. Monitoring, Reporting and Accountability

- Work with the MEAL Officer on monthly service-delivery monitoring of the water systems, including periodic headcounts of human and livestock users.
- Prepare monthly technical progress reports and contribute to monthly narratives, 4W reporting, and mid-point and end-of-project reports for the Project Manager.
- Ensure communities are informed of the scope of works at each site and that complaints about breakdowns, queues or safety are referred through the project's Feedback, Complaints and Response Mechanism (FCRM).
- Ensure all WASH infrastructure works comply with Sphere standards, Kenya water sector guidelines, county and NEMA/WRA requirements and CBPF rules.

v. Coordination and Partnerships

- Liaise with the county department of water, the Water Resources Authority, NEMA, NDMA and partners to align water works and avoid duplication.
- Represent OSDA in county WASH coordination forums and sector working groups in liaison with the Project Manager, sharing progress and 4W data.

•Keep records of coordination meetings (minutes and 4W submissions) and share them with the Project Manager as evidence for monthly reports.

vi. Other

- Perform other duties as may be assigned by the line manager.

4. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, Water Engineering, Water Resources Engineering or a related field.
- Registration with the Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK) as a graduate or professional engineer is an added advantage.
- At least 5 years of experience in the design and construction supervision of rural water supply systems, including borehole rehabilitation and solar-powered pumping, preferably in arid and semi-arid (ASAL) contexts.
- Proven experience preparing and reviewing designs, technical specifications, drawings and Bills of Quantities, and managing contractors and consultancies.
- Good knowledge of yield testing, water quality testing, solar pump sizing and rural water supply operation and maintenance models.
- Familiarity with NEMA, WRA and county permitting processes for water infrastructure.
- Experience training water operators or community water management structures and working with county water departments.
- Proficiency in AutoCAD and relevant design tools; experience with KoBo Toolbox or ODK is an advantage.
- Working knowledge of Sphere standards and of integrating protection, gender and disability inclusion into WASH infrastructure.
- Experience with OCHA Country-Based Pooled Fund (CBPF) or other humanitarian donor-funded projects is an advantage.
- Excellent written and verbal communication and report-writing skills in English; fluency in Somali and/or Borana is highly desirable.
- Willingness to travel frequently to project sites in Mandera County.
- Experience working in insecure environments and ability to strictly adhere to OSDA's security operating procedures.

5. HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates should send a **single PDF** containing a cover letter, a detailed CV with three professional referees (including a recent supervisor) and copies of academic and professional certificates to **info@osdafrik.org** with the subject line **"WASH Engineer"** by **5:00 PM East African Time on 27th November 2026**.

Early application is encouraged as this position is urgently required. This is a rolling recruitment and OSDA reserves the right to appoint a suitable candidate as soon as they are identified.

OSDA is committed to equal opportunities and diversity. We welcome and encourage applications from women, persons with disabilities, minority and underrepresented groups, and candidates from the targeted communities in Mandera County.

OSDA has zero tolerance for sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH). The successful candidate will be required to sign and adhere to OSDA's Code of Conduct and PSEA policy and will be subject to reference checks.

Only short-listed applicants will be contacted.