Organization for Sustainable Development Africa (OSDA)
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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Position	**WASH Officer**
Location	Mandera Town, with frequent travel to project sites in Mandera West (including Dandu) and Mandera South Sub-Counties (Mandera County)
Reporting to	WASH Engineer
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 Officer will lead the hygiene promotion and community engagement side of the project's WASH component in Mandera County and support the WASH Engineer on the water-system works. The role coordinates the training and supervision of community health promoters (CHPs), hygiene outreach and radio talk shows reaching the targeted communities, and the mobilisation and training of five Water Operators, so that the rehabilitated water systems are used safely and sustained after the project. The WASH Officer will work closely with the county departments of water and public health, the MEAL and accountability teams and other partners, applying a protection-, gender- and disability-sensitive approach.

3. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

i. Hygiene Promotion and Community Health Promoters

- Plan and coordinate hygiene promotion so that the 15,000 targeted people in Mandera West (including Dandu) and Mandera South receive WASH and hygiene messaging through outreach sessions, household visits and sessions in areas at high risk of disease outbreaks.
- Coordinate, with county public health teams, the cascaded training of 25 CHPs by Community Health Assistants, and supervise the CHPs' monthly household visits and outreach sessions.
- Plan and schedule the participation of county public health officers in community hygiene sessions, including outreach movement plans.
- Develop and adapt key messages and pictorial IEC materials in Somali and other local languages on water safety, safe storage, handwashing at critical times and care of rehabilitated water points, in line with Ministry of Health and WASH sector guidance.
- Layer hygiene messaging onto hygiene-kit distributions, coordinating session timing and attendance records with the kit partner.
- Ensure messaging addresses the whole household, including shared roles of men and women in water collection and household hygiene, and reaches older people and persons with disabilities through household visits.
- Ensure hygiene messages and IEC materials are accessible to people with visual and hearing impairments, including audio and large-print materials and sign-language interpretation at community sessions.
- Organise monthly radio talk shows on hygiene, disease prevention, nutrition and complaint channels.
- Ensure CHPs link cash-assistance households to partner hygiene-kit sites and refer them to county nutrition screening and treatment services.

ii. Water Operators and Water Systems

- Mobilise communities and support the identification and selection of five Water Operators (one per water system), in consultation with the community and the county department of water, encouraging women, persons with disabilities and minority groups to take up the role.
- Support the WASH Engineer and county water departments to deliver Water Operator training on basic operation and maintenance, record-keeping, tariff collection and linkages to county water departments and service providers.
- Facilitate community consultations, with the Water Operators, on the siting and operating hours of water points so that water collection is safe and not isolated or after dark, with livestock troughs kept apart from domestic taps.
- Support the WASH Engineer with community entry, site mapping, community sensitisation on the scope of works, and process monitoring of the rehabilitation, upgrading and solarization of the five existing water systems.
- Liaise with county technicians on water-quality testing and running repairs, and track functionality, yield and downtime so that supply stays close to the Sphere standard of 15 litres per person per day.
- Support the handover of completed systems to the county department of water and the Water Operators.

iii. Monitoring, Reporting and Accountability

- Maintain CHP session registers, household-visit logs (name, location, date, message theme) and Water Operator training records on KoBo, using unique identifiers to avoid double counting.
- Work with the MEAL Officer on the WASH elements of the baseline and endline, post-distribution monitoring and the WASH KAP survey, including hygiene message recall, safe water storage and water access.
- Conduct monthly site and community visits, with GPS and consented photographs, checking that women, older people and persons with disabilities can access water points safely.
- Prepare monthly WASH progress reports and contribute to monthly narratives, 4W reporting, and mid-point and end-of-project reports for the Project Manager.
- Disseminate the project's Feedback, Complaints and Response Mechanism (FCRM) channels in all WASH sessions and refer feedback to the Accountability Assistant; ensure any GBV or SEA disclosures are handled confidentially through the PSEAH focal point and county referral pathways.
- Ensure WASH activities comply with Sphere standards, Kenya WASH sector guidelines and CBPF requirements.

iv. Coordination and Partnerships

- Liaise with county departments of water and public health, NDMA, Community Health Assistants and partners to align WASH activities and avoid duplication.
- Represent OSDA in county WASH coordination forums and sector working groups in liaison with the Project Manager, sharing 4W data and feedback trends.

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

v. Other

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

4. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor's degree in Public Health, Environmental Health, Water Engineering, Water Resource Management or a related field.
- At least 3 years of experience in humanitarian WASH programming, including hygiene promotion and community mobilisation in arid and semi-arid (ASAL) contexts.
- Demonstrated experience training and supervising community health promoters or volunteers and running community hygiene promotion campaigns.
- Experience training water operators or similar community water management structures, with a good understanding of rural water supply operation and maintenance.
- Working knowledge of Sphere standards and Kenya WASH sector and Ministry of Health hygiene promotion guidelines.
- Experience integrating protection, gender, disability inclusion, accountability to affected populations (AAP) and PSEA into WASH programming.
- Experience using mobile data collection tools (KoBo Toolbox or ODK) and preparing evidence-based reports.
- Experience working with county governments (water and health departments) and in WASH coordination forums.
- Experience with OCHA Country-Based Pooled Fund (CBPF) or other humanitarian donor-funded projects is an advantage.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English; fluency in Somali and/or Borana is highly desirable.
- Proven ability to work in multicultural environments with diverse stakeholders, including pastoral and marginalised communities.
- 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 Officer"** 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.