

Synergies

Welcome to this first issue of the African Development Bank newsletter on water and sanitation, "Water News".



edito

We are pleased to launch this new multi-purpose publication which first of all aims to bridge communication gaps on sanitation and drinking water in Africa. As a news forum on water and sanitation, a medium for discussions, a link between the activities of the Institution and its various partners (government, development partners, civil society, beneficiaries, industry experts...), we hope our readers will warm up to this exchange of knowledge and information.

The idea springs from a simple observation: much more progress could be achieved in Africa in the area if the experiences, lessons, in a nutshell, knowledge in general were better shared and disseminated.

This initiative is part of a broad communications effort initiated by the African Development Bank to help disseminate its expertise and knowledge on development issues in Africa in the field of water and sanitation.

The information of which only brief insights can be given here will be developed more extensively on the website of the African Water Facility as well as in the Water and Sanitation section of the Bank website.

However, your contributions are highly awaited to keep up the stream of information which will certainly enrich the quality and diversity of the content offered.

Happy reading!

Bobby J. Pittman
Vice President, Infrastructure
Regional Integration and Private Sector



In this issue

- Importance of Policies in RWSSI Action **2**
- Review of Partnership Programme for Water **2**
- Report on Governance in the Water sector **3**
- News **4**
- African Water Facility: 2011 a pivotal year **4**

Water and Sanitation in Rural Areas, 2003-2009

focus

On the path to progress... but still much to be done

According to a new African Development Bank report, between 2007 and 2009, more than 30 million people living in rural areas had access to water and sanitation.

According to an internal ADB assessment, the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI), launched in 2003, has produced quick and tangible results. Of the 25 rural water and sanitation programmes approved since 2004, 15 have started yielding results. Progress between 2007 and 2009 in particular has been spectacular. Whereas at the end of December 2007, nearly 1.2 million people benefited from rural water and sanitation projects, only two years later, in December 2009, 27 million additional

people were having access to drinking water, to which can be added 17 million people who in turn had access to sanitation.

"The Internal Assessment of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (2003-2009)" published in late March 2011, notes that before 2003, more than 80 percent of ADB Group water supply and sanitation interventions were concentrated in the urban areas, whereas 65 percent of Africa's population lives in rural areas.

In addition, the report notes that a growing number of countries are putting in place sector-wide approaches designed to coordinate and speed up the development of the sector. These approaches have helped, in the 15 coun-

tries for which RWSS projects were approved, to create a framework fostering information flow, joint planning, improving the use of multiple funding mechanisms and harmonizing them with national frameworks.

Capacity Building: another significant development. Towards the end of 2009, more than 34 000 water, sanitation and hygiene education committees had been set up in 10 RWSSI countries and 26 000 of these committees benefited from training programmes, often targeting women.

Challenges galore

Whereas progress is palpable, serious challenges still lie ahead. More than 30 African countries are not yet >>>



picture of the day

Harar, Ethiopia

Drinking water for 300,000 people

The water supply and sanitation project for the city of Harar in Ethiopia, whose inauguration is imminent, and funded at more than USD 30 million by the ADB Group, will supply drinking water to an urban population estimated at more than 300 000 people. This project is the pride of Ethiopian engineers: 75 km of pipes over a 1000 m elevation in a difficult environment. Eagerly awaited by the people, the project has piqued the interest of the BBC (<http://j.mp/harar>). ■

Programme
Multi-Donor
Partnership
Water (WPP)

appraisal

A success story in 2010

Launching and completion of several key initiatives

The Multi-Donor Water Partnership Programme (WPP), a fund managed by the ADB at the initiative of the Netherlands in 2002, joined by Canada and Denmark in 2006, was the subject of intense activity in 2010.

The Programme initiated 29 activities in 2010, mainly aimed at enhancing the dissemination of knowledge in the area of water and sanitation policies and promoting integrated water management in African countries.

With the help of the WPP, the ADB in 2010 financed a major internal review of its Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) Initiative from 2003 to 2009 (see article p. 1). This review will be a great asset for the organization, probably during a second international conference to mobilize resources for RWSS, in the months ahead.

The WPP also enabled the ADB to assess the water and sanitation sector in 4 countries within the framework of a comprehensive study covering 32 countries sponsored by the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW see opposite).

Other reports include: a major study on governance in the sector (see article above), a series of studies on user fees and cost recovery (rural, urban and agricultural areas), in addition to the production of 6 films screened during the 3rd African Water Week. ■

Water movies:
<http://j.mp/watermovies>

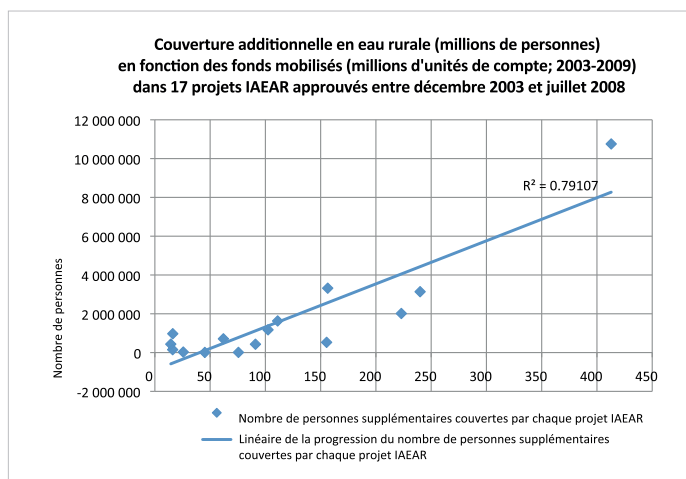
Rural Water Supply and Sanitation

trends

Effectiveness of Investment, Importance of Policies

Recent statistical analyses show that money invested in the ADB Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) Initiative effectively helps to increase the number of people covered. But there is more to better scores than meets the eye...

ADB investment in rural water supply and sanitation (RWSS) helped to significantly increase the number of additional persons covered by these services. That is the conclusion of a series of recent statistical analysis conducted by the Institution's Water and Sanitation Department on 17 projects approved before December 2008 and which had begun to yield tangible results.



“In these 17 countries, says Ernst Schaltegger, monitoring and evaluation specialist, the trend is clear, even if the number of additional persons is much higher for drinking water services >>>

Water and Sanitation in Rural Areas, 2003-2009

On the path to progress ... but still much to be done

>>> covered by the RWSS Initiative. The challenge is even more pressing as 18 of these countries are Fragile States or countries emerging from conflict, requiring significant policy and capacity building support.

The report also notes that water management decentralization policies - often still a wish list - have resulted in a weakening of the supply chains. The lack of private sector involvement leads to disruptions in the local supply of spare parts or post-investment services.

More worrisome is the fact that health coverage remains

low. The report notes that only six African countries are likely to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in this area by 2015. The risks of regression are even enormous without real political and financial commitment on the part of governments and development partners.

Among its many recommendations, the report stresses the need to further disseminate knowledge and advocate tirelessly to remedy the “deplorable” state of sanitation. ■

The report:
http://j.mp/rwssi_assessment



“Water Sector Governance in Africa Report”

For cleaner and safer water

publications

Poor governance in the water sector prevents millions of Africans from getting clean, safe drinking water and adequate, reliable sanitation, according to a recent report by the African Development Bank. This situation prevails despite many assessments to support investment projects in the sector in Africa.

The Water Sector Governance in Africa Report, launched during the 3rd African Water Week in Addis Ababa on 23 November 2010, takes early steps to investigate whether poor governance has been a major contributory factor to the lack of sustainability in the sector.



The report shows that a higher poor governance risk can easily be prevented. It also notes that substantial gains would be made if government assessments became standard procedure

and if governance criteria were introduced in donor project approval procedures.

“While local and national institutions have the most visible role to play in governing the water sector, it is the sector’s underlying policies, legislation and regulations that provide the foundation for overall go-

vernance,” says the report.

Some of the key roles that sector institutions and organizations need to play in developing and carrying out the underlying legislation, po-

licies and regulations include strategic policy-making and planning for water and related sectors; conflict resolution and arbitration, and the regulation and monitoring of water users and service providers. The report addresses each of these roles and the various related approaches and principles individually.

Bobby J. Pitman, AfDB Vice-President for Infrastructure, Private Sector and Regional Integration, adds: “Contemporary literature focuses on the mechanisms and challenges associated with funding tangible initiatives”. Our new study draws attention to the importance of financing overarching water management and governance functions. ■

Vol. 1, Theory and Practice:
<http://j.mp/watergovernance1>
Vol. 2, Rules of Evaluation:
<http://j.mp/watergovernance2>

In 2011, a Portfolio worth USD 800 million

The indicative water and sanitation operations portfolio of the African Development Bank Group for 2011 includes 9 operations amounting to more than USD 800 million, up about 20 percent compared to 2010.

These projects include rural water and sanitation programmes as well as urban drinking water programmes. ■

in the pipeline

RWSS

Donors' Meeting in Tunis

Contributors to the African Development Bank’s Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative met on Monday, 28 March 2011 in Tunis to review the 2010 Annual Report and the 2011 Work Programme.

Contributors took the opportunity to express their appreciation for the Bank initiative to launch an independent assessment programme and to involve them in designing the terms of reference. ■

current projects

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation

Effectiveness of Investment, Importance of Policies

>>> than for sanitation.” In clear terms: RWSSI funding effectively benefits the recipients.

Does it just suffice to inject more money to improve water supply and sanitation service coverage in rural areas? Stable low-income countries have made much greater progress in coverage than countries rich in natural resources or low-income Fragile States, according to studies commissioned by the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW).

According to this second-generation “Country Status Overview”, stable low income countries also succeeded in attracting three times the support obtained by Fragile States. They were also able to leverage this international assistance to successfully move towards the establishment of national systems for the provision of water and sanitation services.

For AMCOM, there is a direct correlation between the implementation of proactive water policies and results on the ground.

Thus, countries allocating 5% of their national incomes to water and sanitation can legitimately push for greater support to bridge the funding gap in the sector.

Source of satisfaction for the ADB: a comparison of overall scores obtained by the water sector in 17 countries benefiting from the RWSS and 16 non-RWSS countries clearly shows that RWSS likely contributed to improve the general framework of water in beneficiary countries. ■

Funding Gap

The African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) estimated that the annual funding gap for investment in the rural water supply and sanitation sector in Africa represents at least USD 7 billion.

The needs are estimated at more than USD 15.4 billion per year that the 8.6 billion mobilized by governments, NGOs, donors and the public alone cannot meet. As a solution, AMCOW recommends that governments should devote at least 5% of their resources to the sector in order to lay claim to more international assistance.

World Water Day, March 22

The African Development Bank, from 20 to 22 March 2011, in Cape Town, took part in the UN-Habitat and UN-Water conference marking the World Water Day. Under the theme "Water for Cities: Responding to the Urban Challenge", the day was celebrated in dozens of cities around the world. The ADB supports approximately 40 urban water and sanitation projects for a project portfolio comprising 65 operations in 35 countries, worth about USD 2.7 billion.

New Strategy

The ADB is currently preparing a new urban water and sanitation strategy to guide its interventions in the sector. The strategy, which has become urgent on account of rapid urbanization in Africa, should be finalized in early 2012.

Close to USD 700 million

ADB approvals in the water and sanitation sector reached nearly USD 700 million in 2010, 10 times more than the amount allocated to the sector in 2003 (USD 70 million). The approvals are expected to reach 1 billion over the next three years.

Tunisia 2050

The African Water Facility, an AMCOW initiative managed by the ADB, in January 2011 approved a grant of about EUR 1.2 million to fund a study on the "Vision and Strategy for Water 2050 in Tunisia". ■

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news

Seychelles

Water Supply Development Plan, 2008-2030

In 2008, the African Water Facility funded a landmark project in the Seychelles, which has begun to bear fruit.

The 2008-2030 Water Supply Development Plan in Seychelles, funded by the African Water Facility, an initiative of the African Ministerial Council on Water

and managed by the ADB, attests to its operational efficiency.

Approved in April 2008 to the tune of EUR 955 000,

the project will first develop a Water Supply Management Plan for the three main islands of the Seychelles in order to attract the investment needed to meet demand until 2030.

A preliminary report shows that it is possible to mobilize enough funds to ensure the availability of water in sufficient quantities and at affordable rates until 2030 to meet the needs of the population, industry and tourism. The study also explores the various avenues for more efficient and satisfactory service delivery to all consumers, thereby reducing water demand, as a logical consequence of the conservation, reuse, appropriate pricing and public awareness. ■



The Anse Boileau de Mahé desalination Plant

on the ground

2011: a turning point

“Over the past five years, the African Water Facility has had a track record of success, with many valuable assets,” according to a recent effectiveness review of the Facility's operational activities.

This review commends the quality of the Facility's portfolio. The portfolio is diverse and includes 66 innovative projects in many African countries, with particular emphasis on the management of transboundary water resources. Other areas of innovation include the monitoring and evaluation of the water sector and urban water supply and sanitation services.

The report also highlights, in addition to the catalytic effect of AWF funding, its ability to provide support to countries emerging from

conflict, with the implementation of projects in most “fragile states” in Africa.

With this recognition, the initiative of the African Ministerial Council on Water, managed by the ADB, in 2011 is at major turning point. It must, in addition to increased decentralization, finalize its 2012-2016 Five Year Strategic Plan and continue to implement its revised resource mobilization action plan, approved by the AWF Board of Directors in July 2010. The plan calls for expansion of the Facility's donor base. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation recently expressed interest in this regard to support the AWF through a grant of USD 10 million. ■

african water facility