

La goutte d'eau  
Newsletter



## World Water Day 2017: Turning Wastewater into Wealth in Africa

Greetings from Abidjan,

The international development community commemorated World Water Day on March 22, 2017. The focus was on wastewater. For more than five decades, the African Development Bank has been at the forefront of funding wastewater management programs. Turning wastewater into wealth, the AfDB argues is critical to achieving the N'gor commitments and the Sustainable Development Goals. In this edition of the newsletter, Jennifer Blanke, AfDB's Vice President of Agriculture, Human and Social Development reflects on opportunities to turn wastewater into wealth in Africa.

In the meantime, the RWSSI Initiative continues on a steady path towards greater impact. In Mozambique, some communities in the Northern Provinces of Nampula and Zambézia are on their way to being certified as open-defecation-free. In Malawi, after years of devastating impacts of climate change, many communities have seen their water systems strengthened thanks in part to RWSSI-funded programs. In this edition of the newsletter, we highlight emerging results of our interventions in Mozambique and Malawi.

Enjoy the read and please do not hesitate to share any thoughts and views with us.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald Chanda



## Turning Wastewater into Wealth in Africa

On the occasion of the 2017 World Water Day, Jennifer Blanke, AfDB's Vice President of Agriculture, Human and Social Development reflects on the criticality of turning wastewater into wealth creation in Africa. Dr Blanke argues that providing sanitation to about 550 million people and water to about 340 million people in Africa will require a scaling of wastewater management services as well a shifting to a value-chain approach. While advocating for Public-Private Partnership in the wastewater sector, the AfDB Vice President calls for bold, decisive and urgent action in order to achieve to Sustainable Development Goals.

"The costs of wastewater management are substantially outweighed by economic benefits associated with improved human health, economic development, and environmental sustainability," says Dr Jennifer Blanke

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## How an AfDB-Funded Project is Building Water-Resilient Systems in Malawi

More than 500,000 trees have been planted as part of efforts by the African Development Bank (AfDB) to combat climate change and build water-resilient systems of rural communities in five districts of Malawi. Fourteen catchment management committees have also been created, and more than 200,000 people have benefitted from awareness-raising activities thanks to an AfDB-funded project.

The rehabilitation and expansion of water and sanitation infrastructure have been central to the AfDB interventions in Malawi

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## Towards Open-Defecation-free communities in Mozambique

Some communities in the Northern Provinces of Nampula and Zambézia in Mozambique are moving towards being certified as open-defecation-free thanks to RWSSI and AfDB funding of a water and sanitation program. Over 100,000 toilets have been constructed as part of the Community Led Total Sanitation approach.

Close to 480 million people out of 700 million living in rural Africa are without access to improved sanitation. RWSSI's plans to scale up work in this area in the next ten years.

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## New Guidance on Effective Joint Sector Reviews

Properly carried out, Joint Sector Reviews (JSR) can be incredibly useful as learning, reporting, program management, engagement, and documentation tool not only for the water, sanitation, and hygiene sector but also for other development sectors. A new guidance for improving JSR is out.

JSRs are highly relevant for fragile states, countries suffering from protracted crisis or where multiple agencies are operating.

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## Improving Joint Sector Reviews: A Q&A with Kersten Danert

"At their best, JSR processes can provide a reliable overview of finance, implementation, institutions, and gaps; bring sector stakeholders together; and contribute towards driving reforms, improving sector governance and the sustainability of services," says Kersten Danert, one of the authors of the study.

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"Government needs to lead the process and may need to decide which sector ministry, or ministries, take responsibility. Donors also have responsibility to ensure JSRs happen and must play an active role including transparent reporting."



## AfDB-funded WASH programs Had Stronger Impact on Girls, New Evaluation Finds

A new impact evaluation on water and sanitation programs in Malawi and Zambia has shown that there was a stronger impact on girl's education compared to that of men. Using geospatial data, the study concluded that projects improved women's engagement in paid work and no impact was found on men.

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The evaluation recommends that to ensure WASH projects bring maximum impacts, interventions including training and awareness campaigns need to focus more on women than men.

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