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AfDB Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative
September 2016



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Why a New RWSSI Strategy?

An ongoing broad consultation process is expected to culminate in a focused and sharper 2016-2025 RWSSI strategy.

The job of providing clean drinking water and improved sanitation to rural Africans is not complete yet. Though the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI) and its Trust Fund (TF) registered considerable progress in the last decade, 8 of 10 people without access to safe water and improved sanitation on the continent, live in the rural areas. African leaders and development actors such as the African Development Bank (AfDB) recognize the urgency to turn this around. Meeting recently at the African Water Week in Dar el Salaam, African Water Ministers adopted a roadmap for achieving the N'gor commitments on water security and sanitation in Africa and speeding up efforts to achieve the African Water Vision 2025. The first of a series of face-to-face and online consultation meetings took place in Dar el Salaam on July 20, 2016. Attendees provided substantive and critical inputs towards a more focused and targeted strategy that addresses not only immediate water and sanitation needs in Africa but also leverages new knowledge and approaches to deliver at scale. The next face-to-face consultation will take place on December 02, 2016 in Abidjan on the sidelines of the Rural Water Supply Network (RSWN) Forum. You are invited to provide any thoughts or ideas towards developing a comprehensive strategy for RWSSI and its TF. Please join our online discussion @ [Dgroup](#) to contribute.

[Report - 1st Public Consultation on RWSSI Strategy](#)

RWSSI Funds Water Program in Tunisia



A water program approved on September 6, 2016, by the Board of Directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB), is expected to provide clean drinking water to about 400.000 rural Tunisians. Funding for the program is a combination of a loan of €123.7 million and a grant of €1 million. The grant is from the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI), one of the Bank's flagship initiatives in this sector. This program is projected to reduce the dropout rate in rural areas, particularly among girls. Other benefits of the program include achieving the national target of providing water to 97 percent of Tunisians by 2025; and reducing the incidence of waterborne diseases (in particular, Hepatitis A and typhoid fever), occurring primarily in rural areas with little or no access to clean water or adequate sanitation.

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Photo of the Month



One of the beneficiaries of the AfDB-funded water program. About 378,000 rural Tunisians including women and girls have already benefitted from the first phase of the water program. An additional 400.000 are expected to benefit from the recently approved Phase II. The program is projected to amongst other benefits contribute to reducing the dropout rate in rural areas, particularly among girls.

"Water has Changed our Lives."



"I no longer need to waste hours fetching water. I have more time to help my husband with our cattle - which was quite difficult without access to clean water. It's such a relief," Zuena, a farmer from Machui, said of the African Development Bank's Zanzibar Water and Sanitation Project, completed in 2015. Her household recently benefited from the Machui project. "It has changed our lives," she said. The Water and Sanitation Project in Zanzibar was supported by a loan from the African Development Fund and a grant from the Bank's Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative to the tune of US \$54 million, alongside contributions from the Government of Zanzibar and UN-Habitat.

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Improving on Monitoring and Reporting of WSS Projects





A two-day workshop took place on July 27-28, 2016 at the African Development Bank (AfDB) offices in Nairobi, Kenya to explore the feasibility of integrating [Akvo Really Simple Reporting](#) (RSR) and [Akvo Flow](#) in communicating, reporting and monitoring AfDB water and sanitation interventions. Both online digital tools are compatible with the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), of which the AfDB is an early adopter. Fourteen staff from the AfDB Headquarters and Mozambique, Uganda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Kenya field offices participated in the workshop.

Key Take-Aways from African Water Week



Key actors of the water and sanitation sector from across Africa met in Tanzania's capital, Dar el Salaam for the sixth edition of the Africa Water Week (AWW) from July 15-22, 2016 to share emerging thinking in the sector and reflect on new ways to tackle water and sanitation related issues. With more than 340 million people without clean drinking water and about 550 million lacking basic sanitation services, this gathering could not have been more timely particularly from the perspective of seeking innovative solutions and approaches to meet ambitious targets set by global and African leaders.

[Read main Conclusions of African Water Week](#)

What Emerged from Stockholm Water Week?



The [2016 World Water Week](#) took place from August 28 to September 2, 2016, on the theme “Water for Sustainable Growth.” The annual event enabled global water experts and leaders to explore new solutions and emerging perspectives to deliver sustainable growth through better management of water. It emerged from this year’s event that investment in water security continues to be a challenge, despite the existence of substantial financial resources available globally. Donors and development financial institutions, it was recognized, should play a catalytic role to bridge this gap through knowledge-generation and sharing, identifying risks and developing mechanisms for harnessing market-based financing. The key role of multilateral development institutions in delivering water services in fragile situations was highlighted.

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Abidjan to Host 7th RWSN Forum





Cote d'Ivoire's capital, Abidjan will host the 7th edition of the Rural Water Supply Network Forum (RWSN). Held every five years, this iteration is organized under the theme "Water for Everyone." Close to 650 participants are expected at the event. The 7th RWSN Forum will explore how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in rural areas and small towns will be achieved. Other relevant issues to be examined include what has worked well in the past in the provision of rural water supply and what needs to be done differently.

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