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AfDB Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative  
September 2015

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## Editorial

# Kambini village on Pemba island

**Does not have a spa and a heated pool.**

But the everyday lives of the inhabitants of Kambini and other rural villages on Pemba, the northern island of Zanzibar, have considerably improved thanks to new rainwater harvesting facilities and new toilet blocks in the village school.

The RWSSI team, working from Abidjan and field offices across Africa, hopes you enjoy browsing the articles and proposes to raise a glass of clean tap water to the efforts being made so that all people can do the same. Didn't recognise our style? We have a new logo and refreshed newsletter. Please spread the word by sharing it with your colleagues and on social networks.

\*Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative, part of OWAS in the African Development Bank.

## Zanzibar celebrates safe water



The President of Zanzibar, Dr. Mohammed Shein, spoke at the inauguration of the 'water and environment conservation project' in Taifa village, Wete District in North Pemba Island on the 25th August 2015. 76 per cent of Zanzibar islanders, the vast majority of whom live in rural areas, now have access to safe water. The 54 million US dollar program was largely financed by an AfDB African Development Fund loan and complemented by a grant of almost 5 million US dollars by the AfDB's RWSSI Trust Fund.

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## Breaking the triangle of thirst in Sudan

30th March 2015.  
An AfDB water and sanitation engineer visits a water yard which stores the groundwater pumped up by a single diesel generator. This water source is a lifeline for the remote villages in West Kordofan. The water is relayed there by trucks and then sold to the population.



Current water collection practices in West Kordofan, Sudan.

A high percentage of the population in the north of the state of West Kordofan currently subsists on less than 3 litres of water per person per day. On September 09th, 2015, the AfDB announced a 22 million US\$ grant to help Sudan break the triangle of thirst. The RWSSI Trust Fund has contributed US\$ 0.90 million to the package.

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## AfDB new president announces rural development focus at investiture



During his inaugural speech at the investiture ceremony held in Abidjan on 01st September, AfDB's 8th President, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina said "Africa's rural areas need economic ladders out of deepening poverty. Disconnected due to poor road networks, lack of access to water, energy and underserved by information and communication technologies, they remain at the periphery of the booming growth across the continent. Africa's rural poor do not need handouts. They need opportunities to unlock their wealth potential. The Bank will prioritize rural economic development to help lift millions out of poverty".

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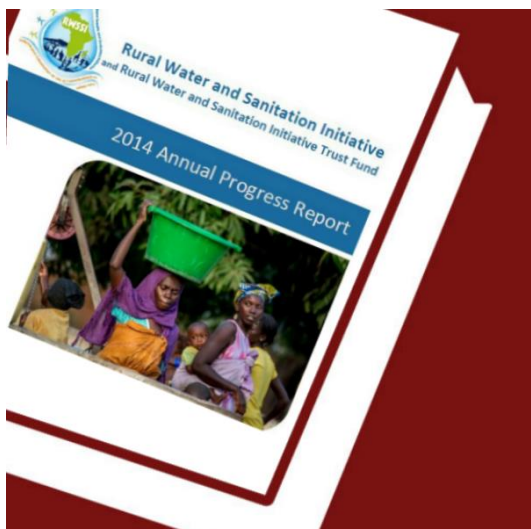
## Why rural water and sanitation are on the African agenda.



Mr. Mohamed El Azizi, the Director of the Water and Sanitation Department within AfDB contributed to the Financing for Development blog and to the Kigali Action Side Event in Addis Ababa, with the aim of underpinning the importance of rural water and sanitation projects led by RWSSI and its partners. The share of RWSSI programs in the AfDB's total active water and sanitation portfolio has increased to about 41%, from less than 15% in 2002, a demonstration of the important role that water and sanitation play in socio-economic development in rural areas.

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## The RWSSI Annual Report is on-line



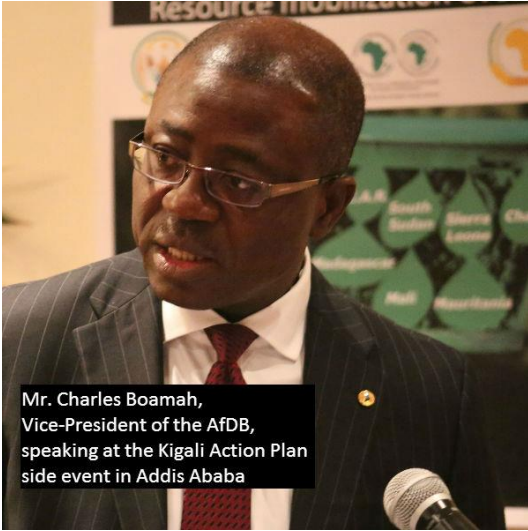
The report features annual figures on RWSSI achievements, an analysis of the work plan and budget, and financial statements. It also reports on the RWSSI Trust Fund status, disbursements and focus areas, as defined by the RWSSI Steering Committee. Prominent Trust Fund Donor countries France and Switzerland were represented at the annual steering meeting, held June 01st 2015. There was a general consensus that the 2015 work-plan should give priority to countries in a fragile or conflict-sensitive situation.

[Go to report](#)

## The Kigali Action Plan update



The Kigali Action Plan (KAP) has Africa's interest at heart and is an example of African solidarity with the most vulnerable countries. As a result of studies led in 2015 to identify the gap by which the 10 pioneering beneficiary countries will miss their MDG, the KAP is targeting the construction of 12,400 water supply facilities and 155,000 basic sanitation facilities for a total cost of 375 million euros. The goal by the end of this year is to raise 50 million Euro as seed funds for the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan, using the AfDB RWSSI Trust Fund as the vehicle.



Mr. Charles Boamah,  
Vice-President of the AfDB,  
speaking at the Kigali Action Plan  
side event in Addis Ababa

RWSSI and its partners, the Government of Rwanda and the African Union, have been scaling up their awareness campaign. They hosted a [resource mobilization side-event](#) at the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development on the 15th of July 2015 in Ethiopia. Earlier in the year, on the sidelines of the AfricaSan 4 Conference in Dakar, Senegal, the RWSSI Coordination Committee met with Rwandan government Finance Minister Honorable Gatete to promote the Kigali Action Plan resource mobilization initiative. RWSSI also welcomed African Union delegates in June for a 2 day workshop focused on framework and financing issues of the KAP.

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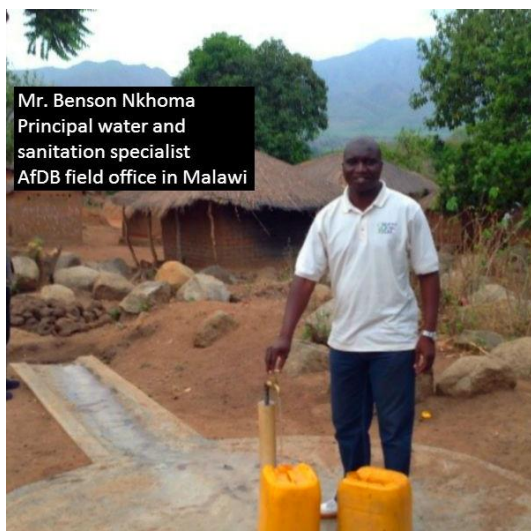
## Overreaching targets in Senegal



The government of Senegal has an excellent track record in implementing its national framework for water and sanitation, "PEPAM" (Programme Eau Potable et Assainissement du Millénaire). There is strong interaction with development partners and at community level, user associations (ASSUFOR) ensure sustainability by managing the infrastructure and services. 800 000 people have gained a supply of potable water from the on-going PEPAM 2 programme, which has received a RWSSI Trust Fund grant of 7m USD.

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## Tales from the field



Mr. Benson Nkhoma  
Principal water and  
sanitation specialist  
AfDB field office in Malawi

In Malawi, developing sustained delivery of WASH services to reach Malawi's largely rural population remains a challenge. The Government of Malawi reports current water point functionality at 75%. What will that figure be in another five years' time? To live up to the name of the new five-year "Sustainable Rural Water and Sanitation Infrastructure for Improved Health and Livelihoods" program, the AfDB RWSSI (Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative) and Engineers Without Borders Canada (EWB) partnered to design a program which aims at sustainability through structural optimization and incentives at local level.

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## World Water Week in Stockholm



Water For Development panelists  
at Stockholm World Water Week

AMCOW hosted the "Water for Development: Private Sector Involvement in Implementing the SDGs" event held on 25th August at the World Water Week in Stockholm. It was a dynamic and lively session which mobilized high-level African panelists, including Mr. Mohamed El Azizi, the Director of the Water and Sanitation Department (OWAS) at AfDB.

AMCOW stressed the political determination of African Ministers to improve on the performance record of the MDG's in water and sanitation. One route to deliver on this determination evoked by the panelists is for stakeholders to harness the service delivery expertise of the private sector.

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