



## It's all About Sustainability

Dear Colleagues,

Warm greetings from Abidjan and Happy New Year!

"Progress has been achieved in delivering water to rural communities in the world," the 7th Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN) Forum concluded. However, more needs to be done to complete the task of providing access to drinking water to over 660 million people globally and 280 million people in Africa. While acknowledging the criticality of issues such as equity, non-discrimination, low-cost technology, monitoring, mapping, etc. to the successful delivery of rural water supply services, the biggest consensus was perhaps on the need to improve sustainability.

As you will read in the newsletter below, AfDB's flagship in the area of rural water supply, RWSSI organized another public consultation meeting to align its 2016-2025 strategy further to the Africa Water Vision 2025 and the SDGs 2030. Also, peer-to-peer learning sessions to facilitate the exchange of practical knowledge on AfDB-funded projects featured prominently on the sidelines of the Forum. Details of all these activities are included in this edition of the RWSSI newsletter.

Enjoy the read and do not hesitate to share any feedback with the Focal Point of RWSSI, Jochen Rudolph @ [j.rudolph@afdb.org](mailto:j.rudolph@afdb.org)



Cote d'Ivoire Prime Minister, Daniel Kablan Duncan says water for all is a global priority and critical for the success of governments and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

## "Water for Everyone Critical to Success of SDGs" Ivorian PM

Opening the 7th Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN) Forum in Abidjan on November 29, 2016, Cote d'Ivoire's Prime Minister, Daniel Kablan Duncan said, "water for everyone is a major stake for governments," and critical to the success of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "Populations do not always receive adequate and sustainable water supply service and rural supply systems don't function smoothly in developing countries." In urging rural water experts to identify lasting solutions to these challenges, PM Duncan said low-cost innovative technologies should be promoted and gender issues prioritized in delivery.

[PM Speech in full](#)



View of participants at opening ceremony of 7th Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN) Forum in Abidjan, Nov 29, 2016

## Preliminary Conclusions of the Rural Water Supply Network Forum

"Progress has been made in reaching everyone with rural water supply," the 7th edition of the Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN) Forum has concluded. Meeting in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from November 29 to December 02, 2016 under the theme, "Water for Everyone," rural water supply experts discussed critical issues related to delivering rural water supply to all by 2030. These include equality, non-discrimination, and inclusion, quality of service, sustainability, engagement with other sectors, mapping, and monitoring.

[Read Preliminary Report](#)



## RWSSI Supports RWSN Forum

About 480 rural water supply experts met in Abidjan from November 29 to December 02, 2016 to identify practical solutions to tackle the pressing challenge of providing water supply to rural and semi-urban communities in the world. Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in New York in 2015 calls for water for all by 2030. The African Development Bank through the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI) was one of the main sponsors of this 7th iteration of the Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN) Forum.

[Read More](#)

## RWSSI External Review: Key Lessons

"RWSSI should significantly increase its analytical capability to help guide country policies and become thought leaders in RWSS in Africa," the external review of the initiative has recommended. After months of work which included field visits to some countries, visits to RWSSI-supported projects; interviews with stakeholder, organizing workshops, administering questionnaires, analyzing project portfolio, and desk studies, Swedish-based NIRAS Indevelop, a consulting firm hired to conduct the study formulated 12 precise lessons learned on which RWSSI could build its new long-term strategy.

[Lessons learned](#)



RWSSI projects continue to be biased towards water supply and neglect sanitation. The review therefore recommended a balance between both.



USAID WA-WASH Regional Director for Africa, Dr. Lakhdar Boukerrou speaks during RWSSI public consultation in Abidjan

## Aligning RWSSI to Africa Water Vision 2025 AND SDGs 2030

In the last public consultation designed to sharpen the focus of RWSSI further, stakeholders meeting on the sidelines of the 7th RWSN Forum in Abidjan recommended a stronger focus on (a) leadership; (b) sustainability, and (c) knowledge management.

[Public Consultation in Photos](#)

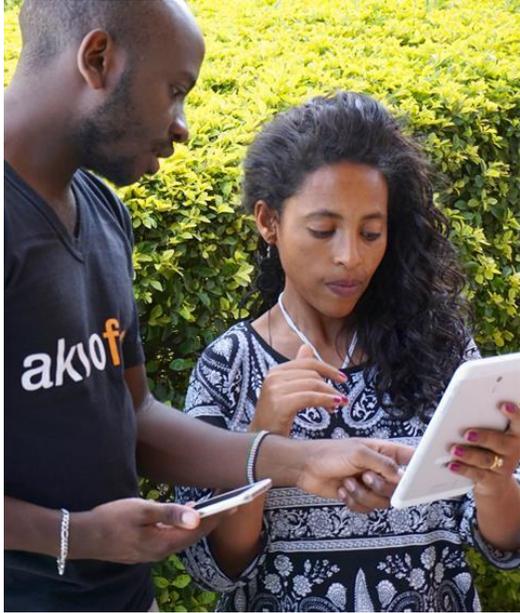


Gambia's Isatou Ida Marie Sissoho sharing challenges and opportunities of AfDB-funded projects with RWSN participants

## Senior Gov't Officials Share Lessons on AfDB-Funded Projects

Organized to further facilitate peer-to-peer learning during the just-ended RWSN Forum in Abidjan, senior government officials from Ethiopia, Gambia, Morocco, and Tunisia exchanged with Forum participants their experiences and practical lessons in implementing AfDB-funded rural water supply and sanitation projects in their respective countries.

[Read Presentations](#)



With a smartphone, project stakeholders can capture and share georeferenced data to improve reporting and decision making in the water and sanitation sector. Photo credit/Akvo

## Improving Aid Effectiveness in AfDB's Rural Water Supply

Rural water supply and sanitation task managers of the African Development Bank (AfDB) have discussed how to enhance transparency and aid effectiveness through online reporting, communications and monitoring of AfDB-financed projects. Organized by the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI), in collaboration with AKVO, a not-for-profit foundation facilitating the use of data to transform development assistance, the training sought to equip task managers with practical skills to gather and share quality data on AfDB interventions in the rural water sector to enhance communications and decision-making.

[Read more](#)



**How AfDB-Funded Rural Water Project Made a Difference for Women in Senegal**

Contact Us

Jochen Rudolph, Focal Point

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI),

Water and Sanitation Department (OWAS)

African Development Bank (AfDB)

Immeuble du Centre de commerce International d'Abidjan CCIA

Avenue Jean - Paul II

01 BP 1387, Abidjan 01, Côte d'Ivoire

Tel: +255 2026 1227

Email: [j.rudolph@afdb.org](mailto:j.rudolph@afdb.org)

You are receiving this email because you have expressed interest in sustainable rural water supply and sanitation in Africa and you are a member of the D group community

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)