

# AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP  
GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE  
DE DEVELOPPEMENT



## **African Development Bank Water Sector Activities and Initiatives Report for 2019**

**Water Development and Sanitation Department/African Water Facility  
(AHWS)**

**April 2020**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is prepared at a time when the world is united in its fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in which the importance of hygiene and regular handwashing has been reinforced. The message across the globe is to wash repeatedly.

The painful truth is that not everyone has access to safe water and for many the ability to practice even basic hygiene and stay safe from illness and disease is not realistic.

Much of Africa suffers from economic water insecurity: inadequate water infrastructure, institutional capacities and water governance are compromising the continent's ability to attain the needed quantities and quality of water for social, economic and environmental purposes as represented by Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6.

Consequently, Africa risks failing to meet many of the other attendant SDGs including those on poverty, health, education, nutrition, and gender, among others.

Governments and their partners should prioritize water security in general, and WASH in particular. They should identify new financing mechanisms to bridge the huge funding gaps and create the enabling environment for all stakeholders to play their appropriate roles. Special attention should be paid to sanitation and wastewater management.

The huge and increasing toll of water-related disasters calls for greater attention to the main causes of vulnerability.

Drought mitigation techniques and climate change adaptation measures are important in reducing the effects of water stress and in protecting lives, livelihoods and economies.

Africa must increase investments in water security measures including: (i) improved grey and green infrastructure for water supply, storage, pollution control, disaster risk management, and sustainable management of natural resources; (ii) greater focus on the water-food-energy nexus; and, (iii) promoting water conservation and improved water use efficiencies; whether for domestic or agricultural use.

The African Development Bank Group underscores the importance of water security to improve Africa's social and economic development. Massive investments in integrated water development and management are required as central to sustainable water, food and energy security for green and inclusive growth. The Bank undertakes to increase its support to its regional member countries to: transition to green growth that will protect livelihoods, improve water, energy and food security; promote the sustainable use of natural resources and spur innovation; and develop sustainable urban infrastructure systems, particularly water, sanitation and waste management.

*“Washing hands with soap is the first line of protection against COVID-19. It reminds us that water can be a matter of life or death. The coronavirus pandemic is a call upon all of us – member states, development partners and allies in Africa and beyond – to prioritize and invest in water supply, sanitation and hygiene.”*

**-Dr. Jennifer Blanke**  
**Vice President of the Agriculture, Human and Social Development Complex**  
**African Development Bank**  
**March 2020**

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## ABBREVIATIONS

ADF	African Development Fund	NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
AfDB	African Development Bank	NSOs	Non-Sovereign Operations
AGTF	Africa Growing Together Fund	OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
AHWS	Water Development and Sanitation Department of the AfDB	OFID	OPEC Fund for International Development
AMCOW	African Ministers' Council on Water	RDGW	Regional Director General West
AWF	African Water Facility	RMCs	Regional Member Countries
BDEV	Independent Development Evaluation unit, AfDB	RWSSI	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
DBDM	Development and Business Delivery Model	SWWW	Stockholm World Water Week
EU	European Union	TSF	Transition Support Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	TYS	Ten Year Strategy
GEF	Green and Environment Fund	AUSIF	Africa Urban Sanitation Investment Fund
HDR	Human Development Report	UN	United Nations
ICT	Information & Communications Technology	UNECE	UN Economic Commission for Europe
IEC	Information, Education and Communication	UNEP	United Nations Environmental Program
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
ISO2	2-digit codes for country names, see: <a href="https://datahub.io/core/country-list">https://datahub.io/core/country-list</a>	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
JMP	Joint Monitoring Program for WASH	WSS	Water Supply and Sanitation
MDWPP	Multi Donor Water Partnership Program	WHO	World Health Organization
NDF	Nordic Development Fund	WWDR	World Water Development Report

## **1. INTRODUCTION: A WATER SECURE AFRICA**

The objective of this Report is to update the Board of Governors on the progress of the Bank Group's activities in the water and sanitation sector, achieved by the Water Development and Sanitation Department (AHWS) and the Regional Business Delivery Units during 2019.

The Report is prepared as the world faces the COVID-19 pandemic. Responding to the pandemic requires member states, development partners and allies to prioritize and reassess investments in water supply, sanitation and hygiene.

The Report underscores the importance of water in improving the quality of human life; raises the key water issues facing Africa; elaborates the progress made by the Bank in 2019; and proposes the way forward as the Bank supports Africa towards the goal of attaining water security. The context is provided by the Bank Group's High 5 priorities, Africa Water Vision 2025, and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda.

Water security is defined as the capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socio-economic development; for providing protection against water-borne pollution and water-related disasters; and for preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability<sup>1</sup>. Therefore, the quest for a water secure Africa is critical to the African Development Bank, governments and development organizations.

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<sup>1</sup> (UN-Water, 2013)

## 2. WATER SECURITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE

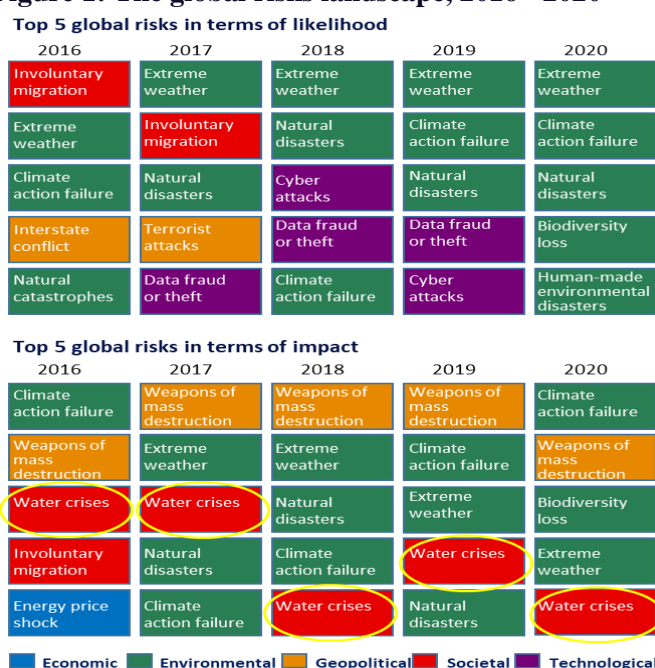
### 2.1. Overview: water saves lives and promotes quality of life

Water security is central to each dimension of sustainable development (society, economy and environment) and is key to improving quality of life. All editions of the annual World Economic Forum *Global Risk Report* since 2012 have identified water risks among the top five global risks in terms of impact. By 2020 each of the top five risks in terms of likelihood are environmental, and closely related to water (Figure 1).

WASH (Water, sanitation and hygiene) plays a crucial role in the 2030 Agenda. The 2018 UN-Water Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation illustrated this relationship. For society, WASH is essential to meeting basic human rights, dignity, health and improved living standards. In the economy, improving water security catalyzes agricultural development, energy production, industrialization and regional integration; and leads to the creation of more decent jobs<sup>2</sup> and greater social inclusion. For the environment, water assures the proper functioning of all ecosystems and their inhabitants, including human.

The first part of the Report describes the critical role water security plays for sustainable, equitable and quality social development in Africa. The second part looks at the Bank's continuing efforts to contribute to the water development landscape, with a special focus on its interventions and achievements in 2019.

**Figure 1: The global risks landscape, 2016 - 2020**



[Source: World Economic Forum 2020 Global Risks Report]

### 2.2. WASH promotes health and equitable socio-economic development

#### 2.2.1. WASH promotes successful health outcomes and saves lives

Access to adequate WASH promotes healthy and productive communities. Inadequate WASH is linked to the transmission of diseases such as cholera, dysentery, typhoid, trachoma, schistosomiasis and polio. It is estimated that about 58% of all diarrheal deaths are directly linked to inadequate WASH. Conversely, improving access to WASH would prevent as many as 367,605 diarrheal deaths per year in sub-Saharan Africa<sup>3</sup>; and would reduce global child mortality by over two million<sup>3</sup>. The 2019 UN World Water Development Report (WWDR) reported that at an average of 780,000 deaths per year due to diarrhea and cholera,

<sup>2</sup> The 2016 *UN World Water Development Report*, Water and Jobs illustrated that nearly 3 out of 4 jobs of the global workforce (3.2 billion people) are moderately or highly dependent upon access to water and water-related services.

<sup>3</sup> UNICEF, WHO, World Bank, UN-DESA Population Division, 2019. *Levels and trends in child mortality report. Estimates developed by the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality.*

the global impact from inadequate drinking water and sanitation services is about five times the combined number of deaths from droughts (1,100), flooding (6,000), earthquakes and epidemics (56,000), and conflicts (75,000).

The health effects of inadequate WASH impact household incomes severely due to down times and medical costs. Women are disproportionately impacted as they are usually the primary caretakers. In addition, in least developed countries, about 22% of health care facilities have no water and sanitation services, resulting in 1 million deaths each year associated with unclean births. Infections account for 26% of neonatal deaths and 11% of maternal mortality<sup>4</sup>.

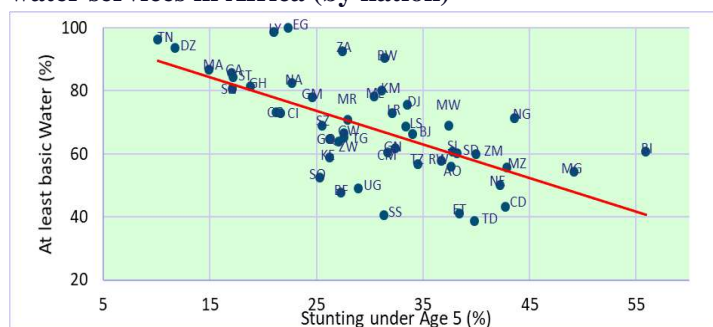
The importance of safe water and soap, coupled with the awareness and practice of hygienic practices in combating diseases and epidemics such as Ebola and Covid-19, is increasingly acknowledged. The challenge continues to be low rates of access, especially in sub-Saharan Africa (section 3). The Bank’s view is that improving the health of Africa’s citizens calls for integrated and multisectoral approaches that address access to WASH, women and youth empowerment, nutrition, and improved education. The Bank has demonstrated successful outcomes from this approach over many years, through multisectoral development programs, including ongoing *Nigeria - Inclusive Basic Service Delivery and Livelihood Empowerment Integrated Project: Rebuilding the North East for Shared Prosperity* and *Senegal Emergency Community Development Program Support Project*, among others.

### 2.2.2. WASH promotes nutrition

Inadequate WASH availability increases the impact and severity of malnutrition, notably undernutrition. An estimated 50% of all malnutrition is associated with repeated diarrhea or intestinal nematode as a result of unsafe water, inadequate sanitation or insufficient hygiene<sup>5</sup>. Undernutrition can be monitored through measurement of bodyweight versus age. Underweight may be due to stunting (low height for age), wasting (low weight for height), or both. In 2017, about 59 million children in Africa were stunted, an increase of about 17% since 2000. About 14 million children suffered in 2017 from wasting, an indication of acute malnutrition<sup>6</sup>. Around 50% of these cases are associated with inadequate WASH.

Figure 2 shows the correlation between the level of stunting for children under 5 and access to basic water services in Africa. The chart shows that countries with low access rates to basic water services have much higher rates of stunting. **Figure 2: Stunting under age 5 versus access to basic water services in Africa (by nation)**

higher rates of stunting. Stunting and wasting affect the poorest in society. They perpetuate poverty and inequality and need to be tackled to create more equitable societies. According to the WHO<sup>7</sup>, the world is unlikely on present trends to achieve the six global nutrition targets by 2030. Countries are facing complex overlays of connected malnutrition



Data from JMP 2019 and the 2018 Human Development Report (HDR). Marker labels are ISO2 codes for African countries

<sup>4</sup> <https://WASHdata.org>

<sup>5</sup> WHO, 2008. Safer Water, Better Health- Costs, benefits and sustainability of interventions to protect and promote health.

<sup>6</sup> UNICEF, WHO and World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2017 dataset

<sup>7</sup>WHO: Global Nutrition Targets 2025: Policy brief series 2014-

[http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/globaltargets2025\\_policybrief\\_overview/en/](http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/globaltargets2025_policybrief_overview/en/)

burdens that need policy, health-system and community level action. A multi-sectoral approach, at national and regional levels, including WASH, agriculture, social protection, health and gender is required for a robust and systematic approach to nutrition.

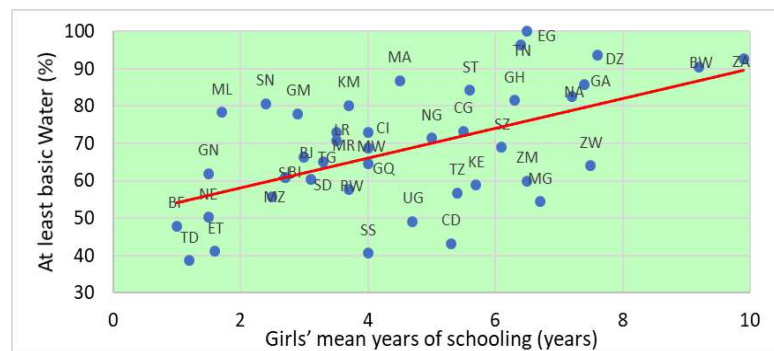
11% GDP loss in Africa is caused by malnutrition<sup>8</sup>. The World Bank reported that a 1% loss in adult height as a result of childhood stunting is associated with a 1.4% loss in productivity<sup>9</sup>.

### 2.2.3. WASH supports education and gender equality

Access to WASH promotes progress on eliminating poverty (SDG1), equitable quality education (SDG4), gender equality (SDG5) and decent work and economic growth (SDG8), not least because it contributes to the achievement of education and gender equality. Lack of WASH further marginalizes women and girls by locking them into a cycle of poverty, drudgery and wider socio-economic impacts. Many women and girls miss out on education and/or productive roles due to domestic chores, including the burden of collecting water and caring for relatives suffering from diseases caused by lack of WASH. A study covering 25 countries in sub-Saharan Africa estimated that women spent a combined total of at least 16 million hours each day collecting drinking water<sup>10</sup>.

For adolescent girls, access to a safe water supply and clean, private toilet facilities is shown to make school attendance rates higher (see Figure 3). Hygiene education at school, in addition, can lead to better health and hygienic behavior for all children.

**Figure 3: Number of years girls attend school versus access to water in Africa (national)**



Data from JMP 2019 and the 2018 HDR. Labels are ISO2 country codes for Africa

<sup>8</sup>International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). 2016. Global Nutrition Report 2016: From Promise to Impact: Ending Malnutrition by 2030. Washington, DC.

<sup>9</sup> <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/NUTRITION/Resources/281846-1131636806329/NutritionStrategy.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/media/files/JMPreport2012.pdf>



### 3. STATUS OF WASH AVAILABILITY IN AFRICA

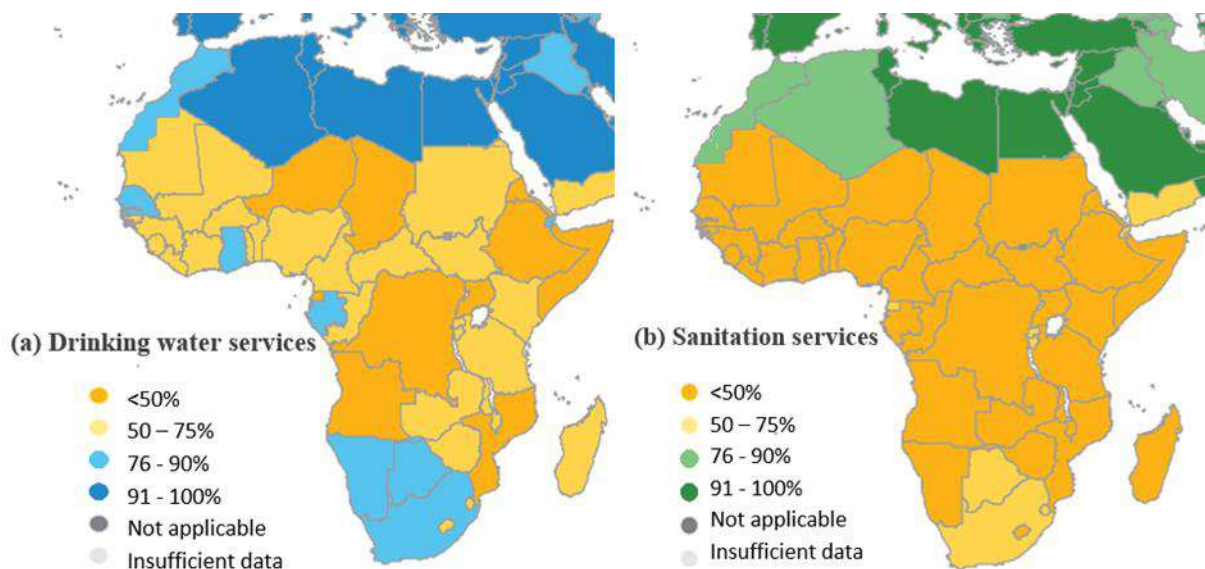
#### 3.1. Low rates of access to basic services

According to the Joint Monitoring Program (JMP)<sup>4</sup>, about 425 million out of the 1.25 billion people in Africa (or 34%) in 2017 lacked access to basic drinking water, while 750 million people (60%) did not have access to basic sanitation facilities. The situation was worse in sub-Saharan Africa where 39% of the population lacked access to even a basic water supply (compared to 11% in Northern Africa); and 69% did not have access to basic sanitation (against 18% in Northern Africa) – Figure 4.

In addition, rural areas, where 58% of Africa’s population lives, have worse conditions compared to urban populations: access to basic water supply was 87% in urban areas compared to only 51% in rural areas. For sanitation, the numbers were 55% and 29% for urban and rural areas respectively. This shows the need for more programming and investments in rural areas.

Furthermore, the latest JMP reports indicate that 66% of Africa’s population lacked a basic handwashing facility available at home with soap and water, the first line of defense against COVID-19 and other diseases such as Ebola. As many as 35% (urban) and 63% (rural) of schools lacked basic sanitation services and basic handwashing facilities.

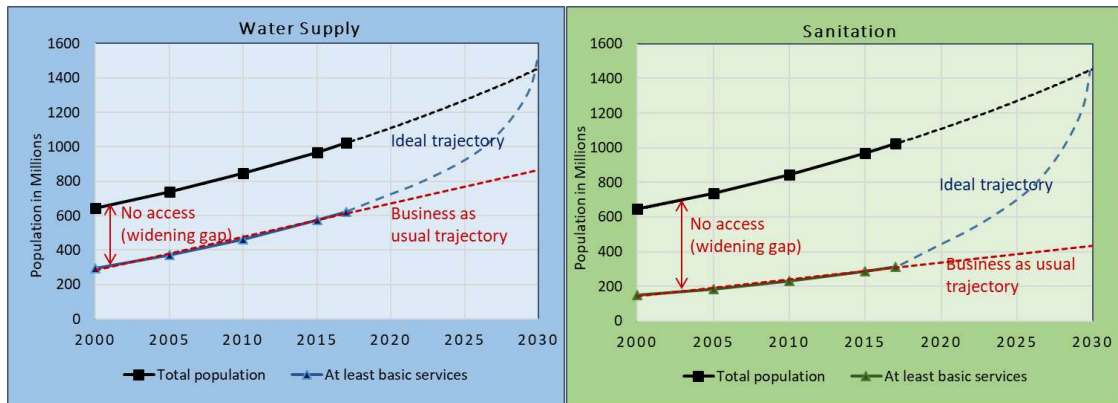
**Figure 4: Proportion of population using (a) at least basic drinking water and (b) at least basic sanitation services in 2015 (WWDR, 2019)**



#### 3.2. A gloomy picture for attaining SDG6 in sub-Saharan Africa

Africa, notably sub-Saharan Africa, is not on track to meet the SDGs for water and sanitation. An assessment of the rates of increase in access to at least basic services (Figure 5) shows the number of the unserved is increasing. If current trends continue, the number of people without access to water and sanitation will continue to grow, and the SDGs will not be attained. The situation is worse for sanitation. Indeed, in sub-Saharan Africa, although the proportion of the population having to defecate in the open declined from 32% in 2000 to

**Figure 5: Investments in WASH in sub-Saharan Africa are failing to catch up with the population increase: number of unserved is growing (JMP data, 2019)**



20% in 2017. It has since remained at between 200 million and 210 million people, many of whom are extremely poor and live in rural areas and urban slums.

Africa is also urbanizing rapidly – the urban population is expected to increase from 345 million in 2014 to 1.3 billion people by 2050. Without adequate planning and investments, and without the required institutional capacities, many people in African cities will lack WASH services in the future. It is estimated that the capital costs for providing safely managed water supply and sanitation in Africa amount to USD 28 billion per year<sup>11</sup> excluding operation and maintenance costs. The current average annual investment of USD 12.7 billion<sup>12</sup> shows the need to more than double investments.

**This situation impacts upon the health, development and human rights of millions of Africans across the continent. It calls for urgent action. Without the necessary service delivery and resilience-enhancing infrastructure, the situation will only get worse. African governments and their partners are urged to devote priority attention to the water and sanitation sector. Governments must put in place the necessary political, institutional and administrative rules, practices and processes through which decisions are taken and implemented, stakeholders can articulate their interests, and decision-makers can be held accountable for water management<sup>13</sup>. That way, Africa’s water sector can play a decisive role in promoting socio-economic growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction across Africa.**

<sup>11</sup> Guy Hutton and Mili Varughese, 2016. The Costs of Meeting the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal Targets on Drinking Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene. WSP/World Bank

<sup>12</sup> AfDB, 2018. African Economic Outlook

<sup>13</sup> Based on the definition of water governance by OECD, 2015: OECD’s 12 Principles on Water Governance, related to three dimensions: (i) Effectiveness (Policy Coherence; Clear Roles and Responsibilities; Capacity; and Appropriate Scales Within Basin Systems); (ii) Efficiency (Regulatory Frameworks; Data and information; Financing; and Innovative Governance); and, (iii) Trust and Engagement (Integrity and Transparency; Stakeholder Engagement; Monitoring and Evaluation; Trade-offs Across Users, Rural and Urban Areas and Generations).

## **4. THE BANK'S RESPONSE**

### **4.1. Revisiting the strategic context**

The Bank Strategy for 2013-2022 underscores the importance of water security to improve Africa's social and economic development. The strategy specifically stresses that significant investments in integrated water development and management are central to sustainable water, food and energy security for green and inclusive growth. The Bank undertakes to support its regional member countries (RMCs) to: transition to green growth that will protect livelihoods, improve water, energy and food security; promote the sustainable use of natural resources and spur innovation; and develop sustainable urban infrastructure systems, particularly water, sanitation and waste management.

Within the High 5s, water security underpins food security (agriculture represents 70% of total water consumption), energy security (high dependence on hydro-power, and water is an input for other sources of energy), industrialization (water as a key input and catalyst), regional integration (through transboundary waters) and improving the quality of life (impact on health, nutrition, education, gender equity and livelihoods).

In 2019, the Water and Sanitation Department (AHWS) led the development of the Bank's new Policy on Water that replaced the 2000 Bank Policy on Integrated Water Resources Management. The new policy considers recommendations from the Independent Development Evaluation (IDEV) 2012 independent review of the 2000 policy as well as reviewing global and sector trends including the 2030 Agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063. It also calls for greater integration and synergy of planning and development of water and sanitation-related interventions and for sustainability. The Bank also started work on its water strategy, which is expected to be completed in 2020.

### **4.2. Water and sanitation investment financing in 2019 and linkage to High 5s**

In 2019, 13 projects were approved for a total amount of UA 333.72 million, representing 64% of the planned target for the year. Of the approved amount, UA 211.67 million (63%) came from the ADB, UA 18.53 million (6%) from the ADF and UA 103.52 million (31%) from other sources including the TSF, AGTF, the RWSSI Trust Fund, GEF and the Zim Fund (Table 1). One African Water Facility (AWF) project in Cote d'Ivoire was approved for €0.91 million.

The approved projects contribute to addressing the water sector challenges on the continent and embed innovative approaches, which incorporate: infrastructure development for improved WASH services; water resource management; disaster risk management; ecosystem integrity; and strengthening of institutional and human capacity. The interventions will occur in urban and rural areas, as well as at national and regional levels, targeting the needs of poor and vulnerable groups, including women and youth.

Key expected outcomes of the projects include access to safe water and improved sanitation for about 7.4 million people of whom at least 52% are women; and skills development for youth and women with further job creation for 6,430 people (1,530 permanent and 4,900 temporary). Table 2 demonstrates that the projects approved in 2019 contribute to the Bank's High 5s.

**Table 1: List of water and sanitation investment projects approved in 2019**

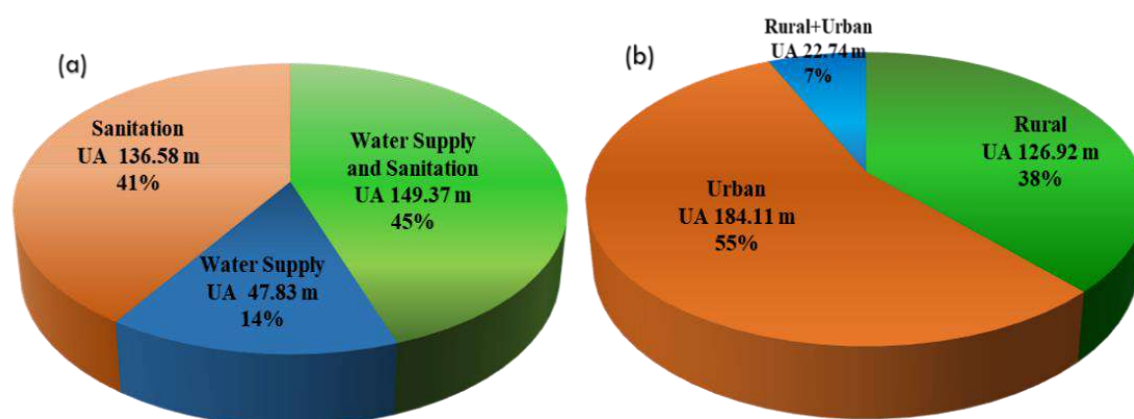
No.	Project Name	Region	Urban/ Rural (U/R)	Source of Funding (UA million)								TOTAL	
				ADB Public	ADF			AGT F	RW SSI	GEF	Zim Fund		
					Loan	Grant	TSF						
1	<b>Gabon</b> - Libreville drinking water supply network strengthening project	Central	U						34.58				<b>34.58</b>
2	<b>Zimbabwe</b> – Urgent WSS rehab. project - consolidation works	South	U								1.25		<b>1.25</b>
3	<b>Malawi</b> - Add. financing - sustainable rural water & san. infrastructure for improved health & livelihoods project	East	R								1.90		<b>1.90</b>
4	<b>Regional CT-</b> Strengthening trans-boundary cooperation and natural resources mgmt. in Songwe river basin	Trans-boundary	U/R								4.61		<b>4.61</b>
5	<b>Lesotho-</b> Lowlands rural water supply and sanitation project	South	R								3.18		<b>3.18</b>
6	<b>South Sudan-</b> Strategic water supply and sanitation improvement project	East	U/R			8.00	8.00		1.61				<b>17.61</b>
7	<b>Somalia-</b> Urban water supply infrastructure phase I (Kismayo & Baidoa)	East	U				8.63						<b>8.63</b>
8	<b>Benin-</b> Support project for Cotonou Storm water drainage program	West	U	49.18									<b>49.18</b>
9	<b>Eritrea</b> - Supplementary financing - Eritrea groundwater assessment, aquifer mapping and well development	East	U/R				0.51						<b>0.51</b>
10	<b>Sudan</b> - Sustainable rural WSS project in North and South Kordofan	East	R				22.13		0.96				<b>23.09</b>
11	<b>Burkina Faso:</b> Rural drinking water and sanitation project	West	R		6.50	4.03			0.80				<b>11.33</b>
12	<b>Nigeria:</b> Nigeria urban water reform and Akure water supply & san project	West	U	75.89				14.56					<b>90.46</b>
13	<b>Egypt:</b> Integrated rural sanitation in upper Egypt	North	R	86.60					0.80				<b>87.40</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>211.67</b>	<b>6.50</b>	<b>12.03</b>	<b>39.27</b>	<b>49.14</b>	<b>4.17</b>	<b>9.69</b>	<b>1.25</b>		<b>333.72</b>

**Table 2: Water and the High 5s: examples from the 2019 lending program**

High 5	Examples from 2019 water sector projects
<b>Light up and Power Africa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) <i>Benin: Support project for Cotonou storm water drainage</i> will also modify electricity supply networks to improve power supply in two out of the 34 sub-basins in Benin.</li> <li>ii) <i>South Sudan: Strategic water supply and sanitation improvement project</i> involves construction of solar power for rural water systems, contributing to use of renewable energy in rural water supply.</li> </ul>
<b>Feed Africa</b>	<p>Increased water availability for agriculture and food processing; e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) <i>Sudan: Sustainable rural WSS project for North and South Kordofan</i>, where 64% of the project area population are predominantly agriculturalists and pastoralists.</li> <li>ii) <i>Burkina Faso: Rural drinking water and sanitation project</i> will provide sustainable access to water for domestic and livelihood activities including food processing.</li> <li>iii) <i>Eritrea: Groundwater assessment, aquifer mapping project</i> will improve drought resilience and expansion of irrigation agriculture towards improved food security.</li> <li>iv) <i>Egypt – integrated rural sanitation in Upper Egypt</i> will build integrated sanitation infrastructure with reuse of treated wastewater and sludge for agriculture and ecosystems.</li> </ul>
<b>Industrialize Africa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Most of the urban projects will contribute to increased industrialization and job creation</li> </ul>
<b>Integrate Africa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) <i>Strengthening transboundary cooperation and integrated natural resource management in the Songwe River Basin’ project</i> is regional, traversing Malawi and Tanzania.</li> </ul>
<b>Improve the Quality of Life for Africans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Improving the quality of life in Africa through enhancing access to a safe and potable water supply and sanitation in rural and urban areas towards eliminating extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity.</li> </ul>

Figure 6 shows the breakdown of the 2019 approved projects by sub-sector and by rural and urban distribution. The figure shows continuing efforts to increase funding for sanitation. Allocation to rural areas continues to be smaller than for urban areas. It is also noted that overall funding to the sector in 2019 was lower than in 2018.

**Figure 6: Breakdown of 2019 approvals by: (a) sub-sector and (b) rural/urban coverage**



### 4.3. Active portfolio at end of 2019

There were 101 projects in the active portfolio as at December 2019, with a value of UA 3.47 billion. Of these, 95 are national and six are multinational projects, implemented in 41 countries. The regional distribution and funding sources are shown in Tables 3 and 4 respectively. The projects are expected to provide improved water supply and sanitation (WSS) services, improving the welfare and livelihoods of an estimated 85 million people. The number of active projects under the AWF was 25, costing about UA 25.62 million.

**Table 3: Bank investments – active portfolio distribution per region (Dec 2019)**

Region	Value (mUA)	% of fund	No. of operations	%	No. of RMCs
North	657.89	19%	12	12%	5
East	1,363.2	39%	29	28%	11
Central	256.59	7%	12	12%	5
West	364.27	11%	18	18%	8
South	425.21	12%	25	25%	11
Nigeria	402.67	12%	5	5%	1
<b>Bank Total</b>	<b>3,469.83</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>41</b>

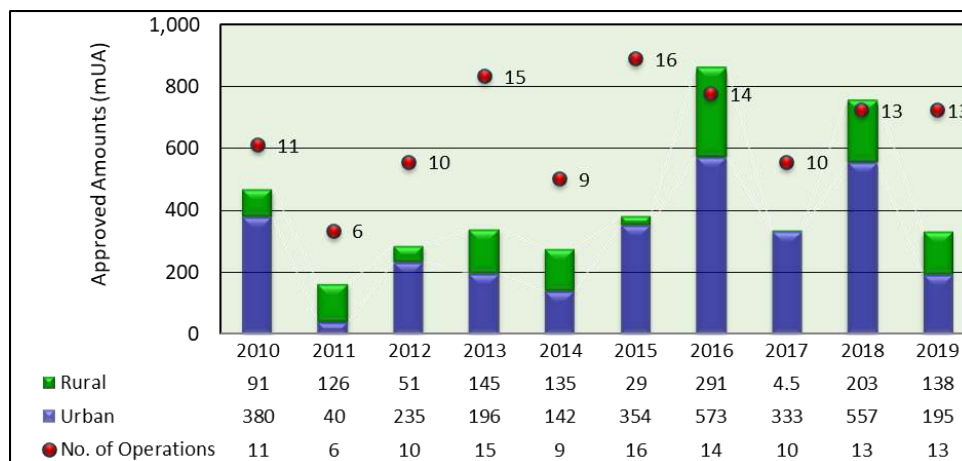
**Table 4: Portfolio distribution by source of funding (31 Dec 2019)**

Region	Value (UA million)						Total
	ADB	ADF	NTF	RWSSI	AWF	Others	
North	572.24	5.50		5.26	1.75	73.14	657.89
East	847.12	316.55		14.91	5.38	179.24	1,363.20
Central	61.01	78.64		11.24	3.46	102.24	256.59
West	101.95	195.59	6.00	11.56	6.11	43.06	364.27
South	269.29	42.69		8.25	8.93	96.06	425.21
Nigeria	219.98	168.22		0	0	14.46	402.67
	<b>2,071.59</b>	<b>807.182</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>51.23</b>	<b>25.62</b>	<b>508.20</b>	<b>3,469.83</b>
(%)	<b>60%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>1.48%</b>	<b>0.74%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 4.4. Evolution of Bank water supply and sanitation financing (2010 - 2019)

Between 2010 and 2019, the Bank invested UA 4.22 billion in water supply and sanitation services delivery as shown in Figure 7. Of this investment, 71.3% (or UA 3.01 billion) focused on improving the lives of the urban poor, catalyzing industrial and business developments, and enhancing resilience to climate change risks. UA 1.21 billion provided water supply and sanitation services to communities in rural areas. As a result, an estimated 35 million people in urban areas and nearly 57 million people in rural areas gained, or are gaining, access to improved water supply and sanitation services.

**Figure 7: Progression of AfDB water supply and sanitation financing (2010-2019)**



#### 4.5. Operational achievements in 2019

##### 4.5.1. Lending program and portfolio management

In addition to the achievements in the lending program presented under 4.2, the Bank continued to improve its water sector key performance indicators, leading to improved portfolio management.

- (i) *Disbursements* totaled UA 289.64 million for water sector projects in 2019, with the bulk drawing from the ADB window (51% of the annual disbursement amount), followed by the ADF (31%) and others (18%) comprising NTF, RWSSI-TF, and AWF (Table 5). The disbursement rates from ADB and ADF windows far exceeded the target of 20%, highlighting the Bank's efforts to support the needs of its RMCs, with minimum delays.
- (ii) *Co-financing* for operations approved in 2019 constituted 18% of the projects' volume. As shown in Table 1, UA 60.09 million of the approved funding of UA 333.72 million for 2019 was leveraged from other sources including AGTF, RWSSI, GEF and the Zim Fund.

Instrument	Amount	% disbursement
ADB	146.53	51
ADF	88.99	31
NTF	2.25	1
RWSSI-TF	6.79	2
AWF	6.66	2
Others	38.43	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>289.64</b>	<b>100</b>

#### 4.5.2. Promoting private sector participation in the water and sanitation sector

In 2019, AHWS prepared Project Evaluation Notes (PENs) on three NSOs for an anticipated total Bank support of UA 30.50 million for possible finalization in 2020. These are *Abidjan Landfill phase 2 in Ivory Coast*; *Poseidon Water Fund in Southern Africa*, and *Ecoti Solid Waste Management project in Ivory Coast*. AHWS undertook business development missions to Tunisia, Senegal and Egypt to explore opportunities for more private sector funding.

#### 4.5.3. Completed interventions in 2019

Nineteen water projects were completed in 2019, including eight from the AWF. The sector continues to ensure timely preparation and submission of project completion reports (PCRs). All PCRs had project ratings of at least “satisfactory” with one rated ‘highly satisfactory’. The PCRs provide valuable self-evaluation tools to help the Bank account for its water investments and generate lessons to inform new programming.

The completed projects supported infrastructure, institutional capacity, governance, water resources management and development, and research studies on WASH services delivery, benefitting about 8 million people with improved water and sanitation services. Water sector projects approved in the last ten years continue to be effective and impactful. This is demonstrated by the five selected projects summarized below, comprising two completed in 2019, and three approved in 2019.

#### Box 1: BENIN: Support project for Cotonou storm water drainage program

The project contributes to the Cotonou storm water drainage program estimated at €397.63 million, with a Bank contribution of €65 million (UA 49.18 million) from ADB.

The project embeds an inclusive approach in two ways:

- Involves other co-financiers, including the AFD, the EIB, the IsDB, the WB, and the ADB.
- Involves multiple stakeholders- allied government actors; and local actors - *civil society and communities* - to address all flood-related issues to mitigate storm water impacts in Cotonou.

Key beneficiaries of the project:

- The population of Cotonou, estimated at 785,000, particularly women, youth and children who will benefit from an improved living environment
- Creation of 1,000 temporary jobs for women and youths in excavation, backfilling, brick making, site restoration, masonry services, and itinerant trade.

Other expected outcomes include:

- Improved health conditions through drainage, construction of latrines and behavior change sensitization.
- Improved education through the construction of primary schools.



### **Box 2: EGYPT- Gabal El-Asfar wastewater treatment plant – Stage II Phase II Project**

From the ADB window, the Bank provided support of Euro 53.3 million to the contribution of €81.1 million from the Government of Egypt to construct Phase II – Stage II of the Gabal El-Asfar wastewater treatment plant. The support facilitated design, construction, operations and maintenance of the plant and enhanced utilization of effective technology mix to operate the plant. This increased wastewater capacity treatment from 2 million m<sup>3</sup>/day to 2.5 million m<sup>3</sup>/day.

The benefits of the project are diverse. At the level of the plant there is:

- Environmentally friendly treatment of 500,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day of wastewater which improves quality effluent discharge.
- Recovery of 70% of total consumed energy; a key parameter for financial sustainability of the plant and climate change mitigation.
- Sales of 80 tons/day of sludge to a private enterprise, contributing to the financial sustainability of the plant.



At the community/household level, the project provides:

- 2.5 million people (over 400,000 households) with sustainable sanitation services.
- Jobs for 200 permanent staff.
- Skills and employability enhancements to 200 people and 30 managers trained during the construction and operation phases.
- Enhanced household behavioral improvements from hygiene awareness campaigns.
- Discharge of clean wastewater effluent which meets national environmental standards, contributing to a cleaner environment and health improvements for target beneficiaries.

### **Box 3: NIGERIA: The urban water reform and Akure water supply and sanitation project**

The project, targeting the State of Ondo, addresses institutional, organizational and infrastructure development issues for Akure City and the Federal Government of Nigeria - to strengthen capacity to facilitate urban water supply and sanitation reforms throughout Nigeria.

Akure is faced with water resource vulnerability to extreme climatic changes, including intensive flooding in rainy periods and water scarcity in dry spells. The project will ensure year-round water availability, by integrating disaster risk management and climate change adaptation options, including:

- Building river defenses and embankment reinforcement for the Owena-Ondo weir.
- Preparing flood protection plans.
- Frequently monitoring dams and weir for structural integrity.
- Developing early warning systems and climate risk insurance.

Expected outcomes are:

- Improved wellbeing and productivity of 1.3 million residents of Akure City and environs who will benefit from improved water services, sanitary conditions and environmental practices.
- Creation of 2,010 permanent and temporary jobs.
- Improved service delivery and commercial viability of the Ondo State Water Corporation;
- Improved urban water sector governance in Nigeria.





#### **Box 4: MOROCCO: Eleventh drinking water supply project - Upgrading DWS in Rabat/Casablanca**

The project upgraded drinking water supply (DWS) systems within the *Rabat-Casablanca Coastal area* covering towns such as Rabat, Casablanca, Tamesna, Témara, Mohammedia, Bouznika to meet water needs to 2030.

The area is the most densely populated and urbanized in Morocco, following an economic, tourism and industrial boom, and large-scale infrastructure such as motorways, railways, and airports.

The DWS system upgrade involved the construction of a raw water pumping station; raw water discharge pipes; treatment stations; treated water supply mains; rehabilitation of two existing treated water delivery pipes; and electrical connection of the raw water pumping station and the treatment station.

Ongoing benefits derived from the project include:

- Additional water flow of 5m<sup>3</sup>/s, ensuring increased DWS for communities in Rabat/Casablanca. Urban drinking water access is maintained at 100% and rural drinking water access is improved from 87 to 90%.
- Guaranteed DWS for more than five million people, covering farmers, individuals, traders, artisans, industrialists.



#### **Box 5: Strengthening transboundary cooperation and integrated natural resource management in the Songwe River Basin Project**

The STCINRM is a regional study project on transboundary cooperation and integrated natural resource management approved with GEF of UA 4.61million. It traverses Malawi and mainland Tanzania.

The STCINRM prepares the ground for the implementation of the Songwe River Basin Development Program (SRBDP) to sustainably protect the basin's natural resources from increasing degradation.

The planned SRBDP will:

- Address the environmental degradation of the Songwe River Basin, covering around 4,200 km<sup>2</sup> and part of the wider Zambezi River Basin.
- Be a multipurpose dam (115 m high, 330 Mm<sup>3</sup>) to supply water for a 180 MW hydropower plant, involving 3,000 ha of irrigation in each country, control floods in the lower part of the basin, and providing water for 86,000 dwellers.

Given that the STCINRM prepares the ground for the SRBDP, this initial Bank support is pivotal and catalytic for the achievement of the range of outcomes.



## 4.6. Non-operational achievements in 2019

### 4.6.1. Water coordination and partnerships

AHWS strengthened partnerships in water sector policy advocacy, national systems strengthening, co-financing, knowledge management and resource mobilization. Examples are:

- (i) The African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and others to organize the joint AfricaSan 5 & 5th Fecal Sludge Management (FSM) Conference held in Cape Town, South Africa in February 2019. During the Conference, AHWS convened a Development Partners Dialogue to provide space for partners to share opportunities, lessons, and experiences in supporting governments' work on WASH in Africa;
- (ii) The Government of Senegal in preparations to host the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar in March 2021;
- (iii) The Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) towards implementation of the Bank President's Instructions on Lake Chad; and,
- (iv) UNEP and GRID-Arendal on the preparation of a *Sanitation and Wastewater Atlas for Africa* to provide evidence-based policy support to facilitate decision-making on improved wastewater management and better access to sanitation services.

### 4.6.2. Participation in conferences

The Bank, represented by AHWS, participated in several impactful water conferences and seminars in 2019 to deepen collaboration in support of continental water and sanitation improvements. These included the following:

- (i) The 2019 World Bank Water Week where there were efforts to strengthen collaboration on co-financing and water sector knowledge management. The global learning and dialogue event shared best practice and experience of the World Bank Water Global Practice's three strategic pillars of Sustaining Water Resources, Delivering Services, and Building Resilience. The knowledge gained will inform the preparation of the Bank's water strategy.
- (ii) The 2019 Stockholm World Water Week (SWWW)<sup>14</sup> where the Bank convened a series of sessions, participated in panelists' discussions, made technical presentations, held multiple side meetings with partners and articulated support for continental and global efforts on water and sanitation improvements. AHWS's participation raised the voice of the Bank in its global discourse on water security attainment in Africa, and shared and gained knowledge and experience. The meeting increased engagement with stakeholders to help deliver on the Bank's mandate on water issues.
- (iii) Sanitation Conference in Kenya where the Bank participated in panel discussions alongside the World Bank, KfW, and the AFD; and highlighted the Bank's focus on sanitation in Africa. AHWS's contribution enlightened participants on innovative and private sector financing instruments expected to spur increased public and private financing in sanitation.
- (iv) Technical Committee Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Niger River Basin Authority (NBA) where AHWS provided advice to improve the operations of River Basin Organizations (RBOs) in Africa. As a follow-up, the Bank is to set up an

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<sup>14</sup> SWWW is the biggest global annual water event

internal multi-sectoral task force including the Water, Climate Change, Agriculture, Energy Departments and RDGW to lead on advocacy and mediation in support of the mandates of RBOs and the NBA.

- (v) Workshop on the preparation of the Sanitation and Wastewater Management Atlas in Africa where the Bank is partnering with UNEP and GRID-Arendal to prepare the Sanitation and Wastewater Management Atlas in Africa, the first of its kind in Africa. Feedback from AHWS contributed to confirm actions and milestones towards the finalization of the Atlas which will map the spread of sanitation issues in Africa and facilitate policy direction to improve sanitation.
- (vi) 7th General Assembly of the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO) to support transboundary water resources development and management in Africa. The Bank contributed to the formulation of ANBO's 2015-2024 ten-year strategy, action plan and governance arrangements to strengthen cohesion between its members.
- (vii) Africa Investment Forum (AIF). The AWF jointly with BMGF participated in the Africa Investment Forum in November 2019 in Pretoria South Africa. The two institutions promoted the Africa Urban Sanitation Investment Fund (AUSIF) aimed at leveraging public and private sector investment. The presentation also involved the demonstration of technology by private companies from South Africa, China, USA, and Canada.
- (viii) During the World Bank Citywide Inclusive Sanitation Knowledge and Learning Week in Entebbe in November, a special session was held with WB staff to discuss the development and set-up of AUSIF. Consultation was made on what AUSIF needs to catalyze the urban sanitation sector / CWIS sector in Africa and to attract more investment to the sector.



*2019 Water Sector Staff Retreat in Tunis brought together all water sector staff from the Business Delivery units and countries, including the regional sector managers, and from the Bank's headquarters. The retreat helped to share country experiences and to develop strategies towards improved delivery in 2020 and beyond.*

### **4.6.3. Capacity strengthening**

The Bank continued to strengthen approaches for effective delivery towards its development agenda in the water sector. To this end, AHWS held its third water sector staff retreat for over 50 water sector experts and regional sector managers in the Bank. The retreat provided a platform for the cross-fertilization of country experiences and successfully increased staff knowledge for improved delivery on the Bank's Ten Year Strategy/High 5s. Top senior

management, including the Bank's Director General for the North Africa Region, a representative of the Vice President for the AHVP Complex, and the Director of the Sector Department, participated in the retreat and provided guidance to enhance staff delivery.

#### **4.6.4. Monitoring and evaluation support to business delivery units**

In the quest to improve results reporting by RMCs, AHWS continued to scale up efforts to support Project Implementation Units (PIUs) on better monitoring and reporting. It provided guidance to two country PIUs for the *Greater Accra Sustainable Sanitation and Improvements Project (GASSLIP) in Ghana*, and the *Climate-Smart Rural Water and Sanitation Project in Gambia*. This is shaping progress on project monitoring and expected to improve quarterly reporting and implementation progress reporting on these two projects.

## 5. THE TWO WATER SECTOR INITIATIVES

### 5.1. Introduction

The two initiatives and trust funds managed by AHWS: the African Water Facility (AWF) and the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI) continue to contribute to the Bank's development agenda on water and sanitation.

### 5.2. The African Water Facility (AWF)

#### 5.2.1. Overview

The AWF is an initiative of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) administered by the Bank. It was established in 2004 as a Special Water Fund to help African countries achieve the objectives of the Africa Water Vision 2025. The AWF offers grants from €50,000 to €5 million to support projects aligned with its mission and strategy through a wide range of organizations operating in Africa. Since 2004, AWF has implemented three strategies and funded 119 national and regional projects in 51 countries, including in Africa's most vulnerable states. The ongoing strategy (2017 to 2025) has three pillars:

- (i) *Project preparation* for financing the planning of water resources development projects and securing further investment for implementation.
- (ii) *Catalytic investments* to share innovation and encourage private stakeholder investment by deploying small but catalytic investments, co-financed with public and private entities.
- (iii) *Investments promotion* aimed at increasing the number of public and private investment opportunities beyond the reach of specific AWF-funded projects.

The AWF donors are Algeria, Australia, Austria, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Burkina Faso, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Nigeria, Norway, Nordic Development Fund (NDF), Senegal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the African Development Bank. The AWF's key achievements in 2019 are described below.

#### 5.2.2. New Approval

In 2019, one project for non-sewered sanitation in Cote d'Ivoire was approved with a grant of € 0.91 million. The approval represents 22.75% of the €4 million target for 2019. The approved project emphasises private sector participation in sanitation improvements for the urban population of two major cities - Korhogo and Yamoussoukro in Cote d'Ivoire.

#### 5.2.3. Disbursements

AWF disbursed a total of €8.00 million. This represents 80% of the planned disbursements of €10 million for 2019. The disbursement in 2019 brings the cumulative disbursements to €140.75 million, constituting a cumulative achievement of 84% since 2006.

#### 5.2.4. Resource mobilization

The Bank, through the AWF/AHWS, has been raising resources for the AWF Trust Fund. At the World Water Week in Stockholm, AWF held bilateral meetings with donors including the European Union, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), German development agencies (GIZ and KfW), the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) – International Waters, representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs from Germany, Norway, Netherlands and Sweden, in addition to a visit to the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) in Austria. AWF/AHWS also met with the Swiss Development Agency, the Islamic

Development Bank and the Nordic Development Fund, and participated in a donor round table in Kinshasa, DRC. The AWF Governing Council approved the AWF's Resource Mobilization Action Plan, expected to give further impetus for contributions to the AWF Trust Fund, co-financing of project preparation activities, investments for follow-on AWF-prepared projects, and support for implementation of the AWF Strategic Plan.

The opportunities have included the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' commitment of €1.8 million in new funding to the AWF and the signing of a 2-year grant agreement with AWF for €0.53million to finance a technical assistance position for water resource and climate change.

#### **5.2.5. Knowledge management, communication and outreach**

To improve on knowledge management and outreach, AWF/AHWS deepened efforts to capture and document lessons on its work, developing and disseminating two knowledge products on “*Mainstreaming Gender and Social Equity in AWF's operation*”, and “*Microfinance for financing access to water and sanitation services in poor areas in Africa*”. Eight Project Completion Reports (PCRs) prepared by the AWF and approved in 2019 contributed to the knowledge products.



**TOGO – Municipality of Sokode: Toilets for all through reuse/microcredit scheme.** The AWF-financed project resulted in the establishment of community-based enterprises managing a revolving fund expand access to sanitation services. Results included 650 household toilets, a fecal sludge treatment plant (capacity 100 m<sup>3</sup>/day), an emptying truck, and 40 new jobs (50% for women). Five neighboring smaller towns benefit from the services and the model is now being replicated in other towns.

The AWF communications approach has been revised with a new web page (*Bankable Projects*) to showcase its achievements. It has reactivated its twitter thread of daily updates with news from the water sector and created a new Facebook page with new content aligned with both website posts and tweets. There is a media database via google analytics reports on demand, and photo and video databases. AWF/AHWS shared four stories illustrating key aspects of the Bank's water and sanitation strategy.

- (i) The Togo/Sokode Toilets for all project;
- (ii) South Africa: Franchising for on-site sanitation;
- (iii) South Africa: Water access for multipurpose use in Limpopo Province; and,
- (iv) Ghana: Innovative FSM business model.

The AWF's communication efforts focused on building its digital presence through its website and social media. Anticipated outcomes include easier communication with the target audience using a range of adequate and effective tools and channels to disseminate key messages and stories on AWF achievements; increased AWF visibility; enhanced AWF credibility and reputation; effective brand positioning; and AWF's compliance with the Bank's accountability and transparency requirements as stipulated in the Bank Group Policy for Public Disclosure of Information.

#### **5.2.6. Integration of the Three Trust Funds**

The Bank is currently undertaking a study to integrate the three funds/ initiatives hosted by the sector department: the Multi-Donor Water Partnership Program (MDWPP), the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI) and the African Water Facility (AWF). This follows audit recommendations to merge the MDWPP and the RWSSI into the AWF. The integration process is expected to be completed in 2020 and will improve water sector trust funds management in the Bank, and, strengthen the ability to mobilize resources to meet strategic sector needs and fill gaps.

#### **5.2.7. Independent evaluation of the AWF**

Following a recommendation by the Bank's Board of Directors in June 2018, BDEV conducted an Independent Evaluation of the African Water Facility operations for the period 2005 – 2018. The evaluation is almost finalized and likely to be reviewed by the Board in June 2020. Among the key recommendations of the evaluation are:

- (i) The Bank should clarify and redefine the mandates and working relationships of the AWF and AMCOW, with a view to eliminating potential areas of duplication while strengthening synergies and boosting areas of comparative advantage;
- (ii) Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation, communication and knowledge management functions within the AWF to improve results reporting and ability to disseminate key lessons to stakeholders;
- (iii) Deepen the AWF's strategic engagement with critical decision-makers to increase its visibility and advocacy impact to build technical capacity for water and sanitation on the African continent; and
- (iv) Strengthen measures to improve the AWF's operational efficiency.

The AHWS has been working closely with the BDEV on the evaluation. As such, the AHWS has already started implementing some of the recommendations to expedite their impact (pending finalization of the full set of actions). Some actions are already under implementation as a result of the Evaluation:

- (i) Resource mobilization - with guidance and support from FIRM, consultations with several key donors and stakeholders and agreed actions;

- (ii) Review of the AWF’s Strategic Plan in 2020 to incorporate the BDEV’s evaluation recommendations and to align with the new post-integration scope;
- (iii) Improved documenting and disseminating project stories; and,
- (iv) Building more synergies within AHWS and other departments in the Bank.



*ZAMBIA – Lusaka. Bank supports comprehensive WASH programs, integrating infrastructure (hardware) and software to ensure impact and sustainability. Information, education and communication for improved sanitation and hygiene, coupled with student engagement and leadership are showcased.*

### **5.3. The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI)**

#### **5.3.1. Overview**

The RWSSI was conceived by the Bank in 2002 and adopted by RMCs and donors in 2005 as the framework for increased financing to WSS in rural areas in Africa, as a step towards universal access. In addition to funds from its mainstream instruments, the Bank also hosts the multi-donor RWSSI Trust Fund (RWSSI-TF) providing additional and flexible grant resources. The RWSSI-TF’s contributions are used to catalyze improvements in sector governance and the enabling environment; investments in fragile states; sustainability of water and sanitation services as well as knowledge management and communication, including sector M&E. RWSSI has been instrumental in raising the profile of rural needs both in Africa and within the Bank. Donors of the RWSSI-TF are Burkina Faso, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland. Some highlights of RWSSI achievements in 2019 are summarised below.

#### **5.3.2. New Operations with RWSSI-TF Contribution**

As part of its contribution to RWSSI, the Bank approved eight new rural WSS projects worth UA 138.30 million (or 41% of all 2019 WASH approvals), including grants worth UA 4.17 million from the RWSSI-TF approved for four projects in Burkina Faso, Egypt, South Sudan and Sudan. All rural projects are included in Table 1 showing individual contributions to each project. Brief summaries of the four projects are as follows:

- (i) **Burkina Faso - Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Project (PEPA-MR).** The project aims to sustainably improve the living conditions of the people of Central West and Central South regions of Burkina Faso through increased access to drinking water and sanitation, increased income for women and young people from income-generating activities, and sustainable management of water and sanitation infrastructure. The project is gender-marked by the Bank in Category II. The total cost of the project is UA 12.47 million, with a RWSSI-TF grant of UA 0.81 million. Together, direct beneficiaries are estimated at 157,500 for drinking water, and 110,000 for sanitation.



- (ii) **Egypt - integrated rural sanitation in Upper Egypt.** The project will be implemented in a less served area of Egypt within the governorate of Luxor. Sanitation coverage is low at 36% in urban areas and 6% in rural areas, significantly below the national average of 94% for urban areas and 34% for rural areas.

The project costs €282,440 million, of which €108 million is through a Bank loan, and €1 million through RWSSI grant with USAID providing €22.2 million in parallel funding, and the GoE contributing €151.1 million, representing more than 50% of the project cost.

The Bank's support will facilitate innovative systems of wastewater collection, treatment and reuse for agriculture and ecosystem restoration benefitting over 190,000 people and 30,000 farmers and creating 1,500 local jobs.



*EGYPT- Gabal El-Asfar Wastewater Treatment Plant. In the background are anaerobic sludge digesters for energy production. Inset are similar digesters at a smaller wastewater treatment plant in Kampala. Anaerobic sludge digestion with energy recovery is a cost-effective and environmentally friendly option for sludge stabilization. The treated sludge can be used to increase soil productivity and crop yields.*

- (iii) **South Sudan - Strategic Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project (SWSSIP):** The SWSSIP received a total grant of UA19.62 million from the ADF/Transition Support Facility (TSF), ADF/Performance Based Allocation, the RWSSI-TF to improve the quality and delivery of urban water supply services in Juba City. RWSSI TF contribution of UA 1.66 million is expected to catalyze improved water system functionality for more equitable access to sustainable water supply, and improved rural hygiene and sanitation to about 300,000 people in Juba and the surrounding rural Jubek State.
- (iv) **Sudan - Sustainable rural WSS project in North and South Kordofan:** The project will benefit poor households by improving livelihoods and resilience against climate variability and change. An estimated 436,000 people in selected areas of North and South Kordofan States will benefit from the provision of reliable water and sanitation services. Nomadism, a major economic activity covering a range of livestock will spur economic prosperity and contribute to livelihood improvements. The cost of the four-year project is UA 25.21 million with a RWSSI-TF contribution of UA 0.98 million and a Government of Sudan contribution of UA 2.10 million.



*MALAWI – Enhancing access to potable water in rural Malawi is improving quality of life especially for women and children*

- (v) Other interventions with RWSSI TF support in Namibia and Rwanda are likely be approved in 2020. With the support of the Bank’s rural water sector experts, ongoing projects in Rwanda, Djibouti, Zambia, Malawi and Ethiopia have been supported to ensure the portfolios remain on track for planned impact delivery.

### **5.3.3. RWSSI Stakeholder Coordination**

To build sector knowledge and capacity, the RWSSI convened 12 bilingual working group webinars, attracting a wide range of participants from governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), NGOs, the private sector, and UN agencies. The webinars provided the basis for preparing three knowledge products in the three areas of the RWSSI technical



*UGANDA -Ngora Solar Water Pumping System. Bringing water closer to people’s homes calls also for greater investments in energy and infrastructure. Solar and wind energy are increasingly used for water supply in Africa e.g. in Egypt, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Kenya, Morocco, South Africa and Tanzania.*

working groups, namely: i) *Appropriate policies and institutional frameworks for the delivery of rural WASH*; ii) *Innovative financing/private sector engagement to accelerate and sustain services*; and iii) *Monitoring and evaluation, learning, knowledge management and ICT for sustainable infrastructure and services*.

Over 240 daily Water Digests on water and sanitation issues in Africa developed and published by the RWSSI reached over 5,000 recipients and received positive feedback. These products continue to update internal water-related departments of the Bank and external stakeholder audience on water issues at country level and the continent as a whole. They are also helping to increase engagement with RMCs and partners.



*Senegal Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Sub-Program improving people's lives*

#### **5.3.4. Enhancing RWSSI visibility**

RWSSI continues to deepen its communication on rural WASH directly to communities on the continent, through newsletters and other channels. Aligned with its upcoming Strategic Plan 2018 – 2025, expected to be approved in 2020, the visibility of RWSSI will also revise engagement with potential new donors to enhance resource mobilization. The RWSSI secretariat has accepted a mandate from the AMCOW to coordinate the AfricaSAN process on Rural Sanitation, enhancing the mainstreaming of sanitation and hygiene in the rural development agenda of RMCs.

## 6. CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD

- i) Ensuring water security - adequate quantities and quality of water for all uses as set out by SDG 6 - is crucial underpinning for the attainment of many of the other SDGs. Without adequate WASH, it is impossible to have an adequate quality of life. Yet Africa is still far from attaining SDG 6, with the numbers of the unserved currently on the rise. A huge infrastructure gap resulting from an historic and gross underinvestment in the water sector and current institutional and capacity challenges prevent the early attainment of water security in Africa. The Bank will intensify efforts towards comprehensive support of sector development and integrate infrastructure investments to strengthen national water sector systems and processes. To foster this objective, the Bank is finalizing a new water policy and strategy to guide the Bank's ongoing engagement and financing.
- ii) The current level of WASH financing in Africa is insufficient to meet SDG targets to achieve universal access to safe and affordable drinking-water, adequate sanitation and hygiene. The annual capital financing gap stands at over USD 15 billion. On average, governments and their partners need to more than double capital investments, while also allowing additional budget for operational and maintenance costs. The Bank will continue to partner with global initiatives to develop and implement water and nutrition programs, especially for the poorest, women, children and the marginalized.
- iii) Sanitation levels in sub-Saharan Africa are very low. Over 80% of the wastewater generated in Africa is discharged untreated into the environment. This results in soil and water pollution, increasing water stress and rising costs of water treatment, transmission of diseases and environmental degradation. Rapid and unplanned urbanization will make the situation worse. The major and proven benefits of investing in sanitation and wastewater management – including human health, economic development, environmental sustainability, and new business opportunities through creating more green jobs - greatly outweigh the costs<sup>15</sup>. Governments are called upon to implement the *N'gor Declaration on Sanitation and Hygiene* adopted by the African Ministers responsible for sanitation and hygiene at AfricaSan4 in 2015. The Bank, with partners such as the BMGF, is establishing the AUSIF program to help address the urban sanitation challenge.
- iv) The huge and increasing toll of water-related disasters and epidemics calls for drought mitigation techniques and climate change adaptation measures crucial in reducing the effects of water stress and in protecting lives, livelihoods and economies. The COVID-19 pandemic underscores this and is a reminder of the importance of water resources and WASH in people's lives. The Bank will continue to support and increase investments for enhancing water security in Africa, including: (a) improved grey and green infrastructure; (b) greater focus on the water-food-energy nexus; and, (c) promoting water conservation and improved water use efficiencies.
- v) Resource mobilization for the AWF and RWSSI remains a challenge. The integration of the three water trust funds into one is an opportunity to reposition their roles and to re-engage with donors. Focusing on project preparation, private sector engagement, rural

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.unwater.org/publications/un-water-policy-brief-water-quality/>

WASH and knowledge management for integrated water resources management, the initiatives address some of the water security challenges across the continent. Donors and partners are called upon to contribute to the replenishment of the integrated fund so that it can help realize the commitments made in SDG 6.