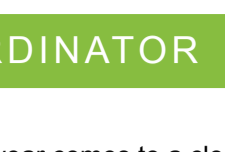


# AFRICAN WATER FACILITY: OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

ISSUE 4 | 2023



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP  
GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE  
DE DEVELOPPEMENT

## MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR



What a year 2023 has been! As the year comes to a close, the African Water Facility has much to celebrate. We made important progress in advancing our mission to improve the availability, accessibility and sustainability of water and sanitation across Africa through support to the preparation of priority high impact projects. This is key to improving the quality of life on the continent, while preserving precious resources for our collective future.

Currently, the Facility is managing 20 projects with a total grant value of €35 million, with four more due to be approved before the turn of the year. Our April call for the submission of project proposals resulted in the receipt of 416 projects – 80 of which have moved into our rolling project pipeline. These pipeline projects have the potential to trigger over €4 billion in downstream investment, benefiting 625 million people. We continued working with our key partners to mobilise more resources into the Facility to support the development of these projects. Critically, work to establish the new urban sanitation dedicated financing window - African Urban Sanitation Investment Initiative (AUSII) – within the Facility made significant progress and is now at an advanced stage.

In October, we held the second ever funding dialogue for the Facility with donors and partners. I was pleased to note that, in addition to mobilising new funding, we received positive feedback on our work and collaboration from donors and partners at the event, including key expressions of support for the Facility's ambitions.

During the year, the Facility took an active part in key industry events including the 2023 UN Water Conference, the Stockholm World Water Week, the 7th African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) Africa Sanitation Week (AfricaSan7), and the International Water Association (IWA)'s Water Development Congress and Exhibition. Our focus remained on showcasing our work, sharing knowledge and building stronger partnerships. This year marks the first time that the Facility attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP28), where we hosted a session on water security for climate resilience, reinforcing our position as the leading water and sanitation project preparation facility for climate change adaptation and mitigation in Africa.

We've been able to achieve these milestones including being commended by Dr Akinwumi Adesina, African Development Bank President, thanks to the strong leadership and support from the Bank and the full team at the Facility, which has collaborated seamlessly with stakeholders including AMCOW, our donors and partners.

As we reflect on the year, I want to offer my thanks to all our donors, partners, team members and leaders for your committed collaboration and hard work. Together, we are building a future where every person in Africa can live with dignity and realise their potential through improved, reliable, climate resilient, and safe access to water and sanitation services. I look forward to 2024 as a year of even greater progress towards these goals.

**Mtchera Johannes Chirwa**  
Coordinator, African Water Facility

## 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS: THREE BIG THINGS

### €18 million mobilised for AUSII

To date, we have mobilised €18 million towards the operationalisation of our new urban sanitation dedicated financing window – AUSII – made up of \$6,000,000 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and €12,000,000 in pledges from the Nordic Development Fund. This support will go towards operationalising the Initiative and improving the quality of life for the urban poor.



### €6.7 million support to the African Water Facility

In 2023, the Facility received \$3,000,000 from USAID and €4,000,000 from the government of Spain. These will enable the Facility to continue to support countries towards the achievement of water and sanitation goals in line with the Africa Water Vision 2025 and the United Nations SDG 6.



### €3.6 million grant approvals

To date, we've approved four projects with four more expected by year-end. Approved projects include a grant for wastewater treatment in Namibia, a project to update and validate environmental and social impact studies in Togo, a project to support climate-resilient drinking water and sanitation services in Niger, and a project to rebuild the economy in the Lake Chad Basin through the development of a five-year Investment Plan. These four projects received grant approvals totalling €3.6 million and are expected to support an estimated 245 million beneficiaries.



## SHARING WATER KNOWLEDGE & EXPERTISE

Highlights of our participation at key industry events where we advanced the conversation on water and sanitation.

### 21st African Water Association International Congress & Exhibition and the 7th Faecal Sludge Management Conference

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire  
19-23 February



### United Nations 2023 Water Conference

New York, USA  
22-24 March



### Bilateral with the Nordic Development Fund

Helsinki, Finland  
25 August



### World Water Week 2023

Stockholm, Sweden  
20-24 August



### African Water Facility Funding Dialogue

Paris, France  
12-13 October



### 2023 Governing Council

Swakopmund, Namibia  
8-9 November



### 7th Africa Sanitation Conference (AfricaSan7)

Swakopmund, Namibia  
6-11 November



### 10th Roundtable on Financing Water

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire  
22-23 November



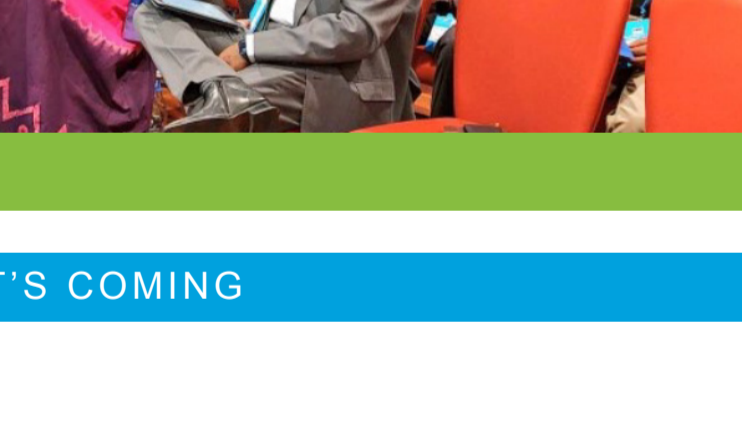
### COP28

Dubai, UAE  
30 November – 12 December



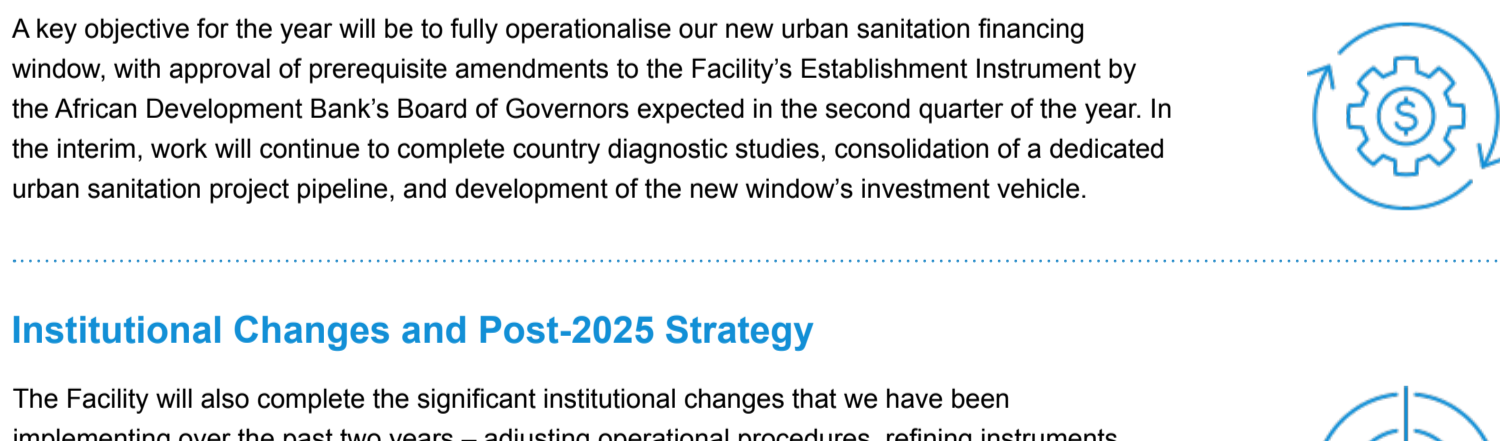
### Global Workshop on Funding and Financing Transboundary Water Cooperation and Basin Development

Geneva, Switzerland  
5-6 December



## INTERNATIONAL WATER ASSOCIATION WATER DEVELOPMENT CONGRESS & EXHIBITION

Kigali, Rwanda  
10-14 December



## 2024: WHAT'S COMING

### Investment Promotion and Action Plan

In 2024, we expect to hit the ground running. In the first quarter of the year, we aim to complete and secure approval for our new Investment Promotion Approach and Action Plan that is supported by USAID Technical Assistance. This plan will guide the Facility's investment promotion activities across the project preparation cycle, with a focus on targeting investors, streamlining processes, and aligning with country priorities.



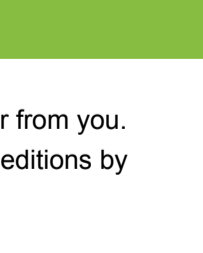
### Operationalising AUSII

A key objective for the year will be to fully operationalise our new urban sanitation financing window, with approval of prerequisite amendments to the Facility's Establishment Instrument by the African Development Bank's Board of Governors expected in the second quarter of the year. In the interim, work will continue to complete country diagnostic studies, consolidation of a dedicated urban sanitation project pipeline, and development of the new window's investment vehicle.



### Institutional Changes and Post-2025 Strategy

The Facility will also complete the significant institutional changes that we have been implementing over the past two years – adjusting operational procedures, refining instruments and updating our operations manual – to align with our evolving tasks and goals. We will also undertake an assessment of our 2017–2025 strategy and begin consultations towards our new strategy for the post-2025 period.



### Donor Support

Further anticipated backing from donors such as USAID for our 2023 investment case underscores the significance of the Facility's efforts and its ongoing relevance to water, sanitation and hygiene initiatives in Africa. In 2024, France and Spain will provide technical assistance to strengthen our internal capabilities and partnership network.



### New Digital System and Website

In addition, we will roll out a new digital operations system to improve operational efficiency, also supported by USAID Technical Assistance. This system will assist with a range of activities, from the processing of new project applications to promoting investment and managing our project portfolio and results. We will also launch our redesigned website with information on our work, successes and resources.



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

This newsletter has enabled the Facility to share news, insights and results – and now we'd like to hear from you. Please share your feedback, suggestions or recommendations for what you would like to see in future editions by emailing [aficanwaterfacility@afdb.org](mailto:aficanwaterfacility@afdb.org). We value your input and engagement.



**Happy holidays from the African Water Facility!**  
We wish you a safe, restful and joyous holiday season.

## ABOUT US

The African Water Facility is a unique continental accelerator mobilising financial resources and providing technical assistance to enable governments to invest in water and sanitation service delivery. It is the continent's only dedicated project preparation facility for climate-resilient water and sanitation projects, and an initiative of the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW). It is hosted by the African Development Bank.

## FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS



STAY CONNECTED