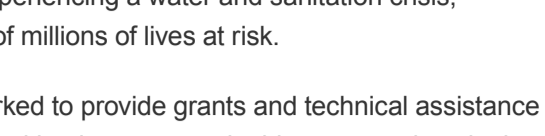


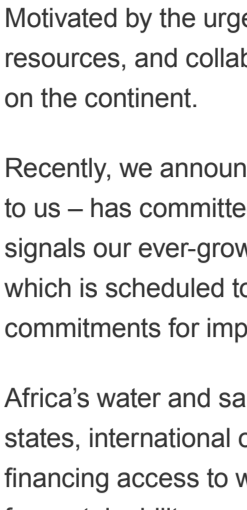
AFRICAN WATER FACILITY: WHO WE ARE

A dive into Africa's only project preparation facility dedicated to water and sanitation

ISSUE 2 | 2023



MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR



Water is at the core of sustainable development and is critical for socio-economic development, healthy ecosystems, and human survival. Africa is experiencing a water and sanitation crisis, compounded by climate change, that puts hundreds of millions of lives at risk.

Since 2006, the African Water Facility (AWF) has worked to provide grants and technical assistance that enable African countries to secure investments and implement sustainable water and sanitation projects, thus improving the quality of life across the continent. To date, we have financed projects in 52 African countries, enabling provision of access to safe water supply to 14.1 million people (52% of whom are women) and sanitation services to 9.19 million people.

Motivated by the urgent need for universal access to water and sanitation in Africa, we continue to innovate, mobilise resources, and collaborate with various partners and stakeholders, to accelerate the needed change in water and sanitation on the continent.

Recently, we announced that the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) – a new and valued partner to us – has committed \$3 million to the Facility to support the achievement of our mandate. This significant announcement signals our ever-growing international support and comes in the lead up to our second funding dialogue since inception, which is scheduled to take place in October 2023 in Paris, France. At the event, we aim to secure increased partnerships and commitments for improved access to water and sanitation in Africa.

Africa's water and sanitation sector requires all hands on deck. Thus, we look forward to engaging leaders from member states, international organisations, and key players in water and sanitation to identify and agree on innovative mechanisms to financing access to water and sanitation, and to ensure that climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience are better integrated for sustainability.

In this edition of our newsletter, I'd like to re-introduce you to the African Water Facility, and to our team who work every day to make an impact in the lives of millions of Africans.

Thank you for your continued support to the African Water Facility.

Mtchera Johannes Chirwa
Coordinator, African Water Facility

OUR MISSION AND STRATEGY IN ACTION



Our Mission

At African Water Facility, our mission is to be the main instrument for the development of water and sanitation in Africa, providing assistance, and facilitating the mobilisation of resources to address the huge investment gap that is needed for the development of infrastructure in water and sanitation.



Our Vision

Our vision is towards water for all by 2025, which captures water for all citizens for all uses. Our strategic focus is on Project Preparation, Water Knowledge, and Water Governance to support the mobilisation of much needed investment in Africa, by providing grants and technical assistance to ensure that projects are bankable, viable and future-proofed, with a clear opportunity for effective implementation.



Our Strategy

We support African states and water sector stakeholders in investing, trialling and implementing innovative projects to improve water access and sanitation service delivery across the continent.

Our first two strategies since inception (2006–2011; 2012–2015) focused on project preparation, water knowledge, and water governance within Africa. Under these, we achieved significant results in supporting the establishment and institutional capacity of River Basin Organizations (RBOs) and helping countries develop successful frameworks to cooperate and share water resources.

Our current strategy for 2017–2025 emphasises support for the increasing complexity of financing water, developing urban sanitation, and prioritising how we leverage finance from the public and private sector. This strategy, revised most recently in 2021, also emphasises using knowledge management to strengthen monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems to improve how we capture and disseminate results, so that we may demonstrate our effectiveness.

Thus far, our work has supported 133 water and sanitation projects in 52 countries, enabling access to safe water supply for 14.1 million people (52% of whom are women) and provision of sanitation services to 9.19 million people. Since inception, for each €1 committed, we have enabled the mobilisation of €29 in downstream investments for water resources development. Our transparent, accountable business delivery systems reduce transaction costs and support innovation.

OUR IMPACT FOOTPRINT ACROSS AFRICA

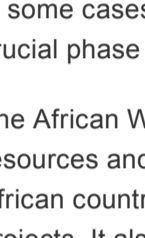
135
projects

52
African countries

€1.6 billion
in downstream financing

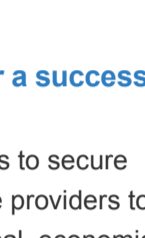
Access to safely managed sanitation services
9.19 million people

Access to safely managed water supply
14.1 million people



The Nordic Development Fund (NDF) is a proud partner to the African Water Facility, which deepens our well-established strategic partnership with the African Development Bank. The African Water Facility's operations and positive impact in the Sahel and Horn of Africa align with our commitment to providing climate finance to the least developed countries (LDCs) and other countries that are most impacted by climate change consequences. We look forward to continued collaboration.

– Karin Isaksson, Managing Director, NDF



A QUICK DIVE INTO PROJECT PREPARATION

Samuel Blazyk, African Water Facility's Chief Programs & Coordination Officer, on how the Facility selects and plans successful projects.

Q: What is project preparation and why is it important?

Every investment project goes through a preliminary preparation phase, during which a number of studies are carried out to ensure the project's relevance and viability, from both technical and economic points of view. During this preparation phase, project feasibility studies, environmental and social analyses are carried out, and in some cases, tender documents are prepared. This is a crucial phase for any investment project.

The African Water Facility devotes around 65% of its resources and activities to financing and supporting African countries as they prepare water and sanitation projects. It also helps countries to mobilise the funds needed to implement projects. The Facility is the only project preparation facility focused solely on the water and sanitation sector in Africa.

Q: How does the African Water Facility identify and select projects?

The Facility regularly receives requests from countries, government bodies and regional organisations to help fund certain projects, whereas other projects are identified in our engagement with governments and partners. We



also regularly organise large-scale calls for submission of proposals. Once received, we screen all requests through a precise process that analyses the relevance of the project. Our main criteria are alignment with national policies, alignment with our strategic objectives, the long-term impact of the project, its role in assisting countries to mitigate or adapt to climate change, the commitment of other partners to support its implementation and the technical quality of the project itself.

Q: What are the key requirements for a successful project preparation?

A key requirement is for the project owners to secure the best professional advisers and service providers to successfully complete the detailed technical, economic, financial, environmental, and social studies necessary to make the proposed investment bankable. The quality of feasibility studies is a key factor in successfully financing and implementing investment projects. That's why, during the project preparation phase, we follow strict quality processes from the African Development Bank to ensure that these studies lead to projects that will have a significant impact on people's lives. The projects whose preparation we finance can then also be financed by other partners (not just the African Development Bank). We work with partners right from the preparation stage, to ensure that all the necessary elements are available, and that projects meet the quality criteria they require.

Q: After a project has been prepared, what's next?

The ultimate aim is to ensure that the investment project is financed and implemented under the right conditions. We therefore strive to meet deadlines for project implementation, and we support the project owner – often the sector ministry in the country – to mobilise finance. In many cases, we help organise a roundtable meeting to mobilise all the potential partners and financiers.

LATEST NEWS

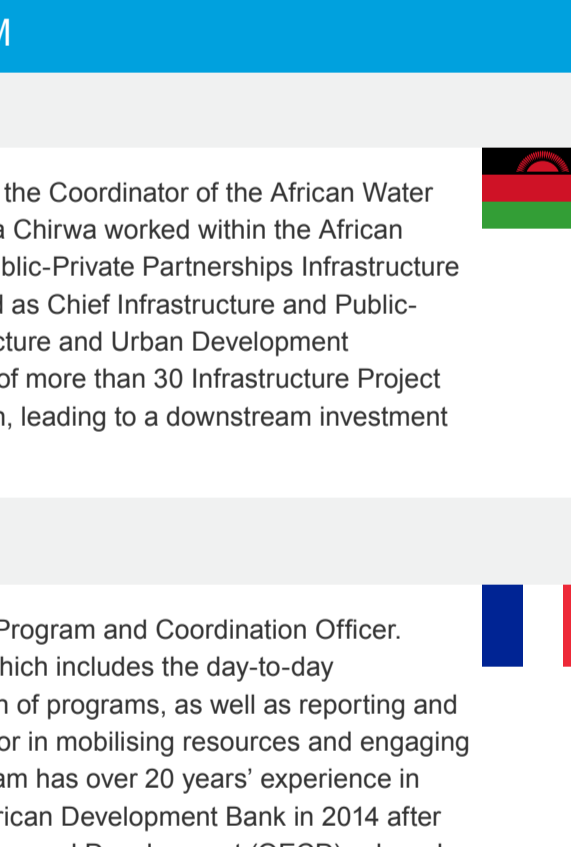
African Water Facility approves €1.5 million for drinking water and sanitation services in Niger

The African Water Facility has approved a grant of €1,519,000 for a project to support climate-resilient drinking water and sanitation services in Niamey and Tillaberi, Niger.

This marks the third grant approval by the Facility in 2023, following grants for the Otiwarongo Wastewater Treatment Plant in Namibia, and a project to update and validate environmental and social impact studies for 31 semi-urban centres in Togo.

The implementation of the project in Niger will provide improved access to clean drinking water for nearly 12,500 people (52% of whom are women and 109 internally displaced persons), improved hygiene and sanitation for about 1,500 additional people (including 52% women and more than 1000 students), sensitisation of up to 3,300 people in hygiene, better use of water, and access to sanitation. Nearly a thousand women and girls will also benefit from awareness and information on menstrual hygiene, social and technical training.

The project will commence in October 2023 and is expected to be completed in October 2025.

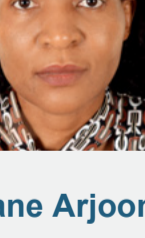
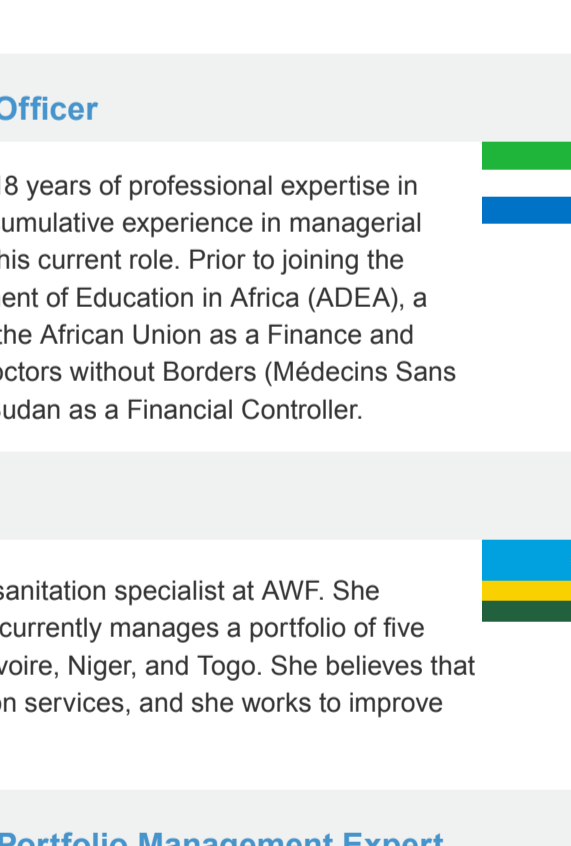


USAID commits \$3 million to the African Water Facility

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has committed US\$3 million to the African Water Facility to accelerate the preparation of water and sanitation investment projects in Africa.

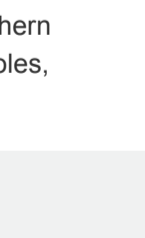
"This financing affirms growing international support for the African Water Facility as a trusted partner and resource for Africa's water sector. We thank the United States for the funding commitment that will contribute to scaling up the Facility's work and positively impacting more people across the continent." – Dr Beth Dunford, African Development Bank's Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development.

Under its 2022–2027 Global Water Strategy, USAID aims to reach 22 million people with access to safe drinking water and 22 million people with access to sanitation over five years.



Spain works with the African Water Facility to support African countries in addressing critical challenges related to water. The Spanish water sector is looking forward to cooperating with the AWF in several areas, such as improving water efficiency and deploying cost-effective technologies that enable a greater and more sustainable access to water and sanitation, and also ensure a smart use of water for agricultural purposes in Africa.

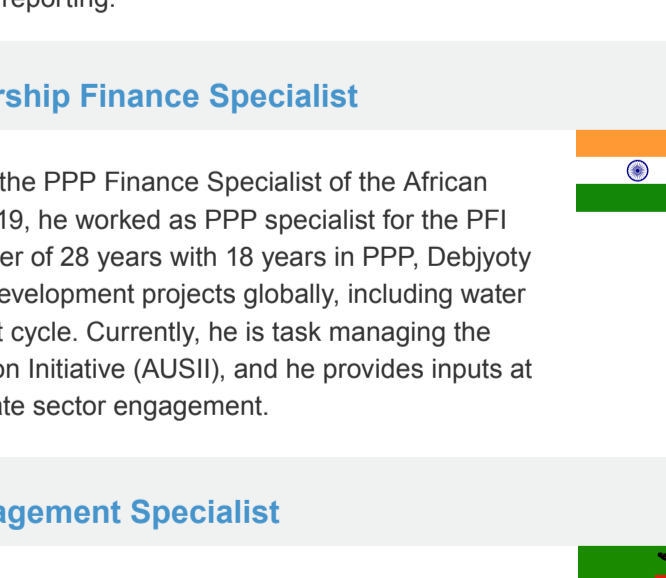
– Andrés Barragán, Deputy Director General, Multilateral Development Banks, IMF and G20 at the General Secretariat of the Treasury and International Finance, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation of Spain.



COMING SOON

Funding Dialogue, October 2023

The African Water Facility will hold its second Funding Dialogue, from Thursday 12 to Friday 13 October 2023 at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) building in Paris, France. The closed event will convene global leaders representing donor and beneficiary governments, multilateral and international organisations, as well as other stakeholders to explore innovative pathways to improve the financing of access to water and sanitation services in Africa. [Find out more.](#)



10th Roundtable on Financing Water, 22 - 23 November 2023

The African Development Bank and Organisation for Economic Development (OECD) will organise the 10th Roundtable on Financing Water, which will be a regional meeting on Africa.

The meeting will be held on 22 - 23 November 2023 in Abidjan (in-person participation by invitation only) and online.

The Roundtable on Financing Water in Africa aims to promote a regional perspective on financing water challenges and opportunities, and engage public and private actors, and investors on solutions to scale up investments for water in Africa. It will explore practical ways to deliver on commitments made at the UN 2023 Water Conference.

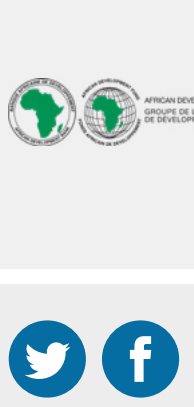
Submit an expression of interest in participating online or in person by Thursday 31 August through this [link](#).

Other upcoming events:

- SIWI World Water Week, October 2023
- Non-Sewered Sanitation Conference (NSS Conference), October 2023
- 7th AfricaSan, November 2023
- AWF Governing Council Donor and Observers Roundtable, November 2023

MEET THE TEAM

Mtchera Johannes Chirwa, Coordinator



Mtchera Johannes Chirwa is a Malawian national and the Coordinator of the African Water Facility (AWF). Prior to becoming coordinator, Mtchera Chirwa worked within the African Development Bank for over 12 years as a Principal Public-Private Partnerships Infrastructure Specialist in the Regional Integration Department, and as Chief Infrastructure and Public-Private Partnerships Specialist in the Bank's Infrastructure and Urban Development Department. Mtchera has managed the development of more than 30 Infrastructure Project Preparation projects at a budget exceeding \$70 million, leading to a downstream investment pipeline of over \$20 billion, over the past 13 years.



Samuel Blazyk, Chief Programs & Coordination

Samuel Blazyk is a French national and AWF's Chief Program and Coordination Officer. He is responsible for coordinating AWF's programs, which includes the day-to-day management of operations, monitoring implementation of projects, as well as reporting and communicating the results. He supports the coordinator in mobilising resources and engaging countries and partners. Educated as a geographer, Sam has over 20 years' experience in coordinating development programs. He joined the African Development Bank in 2014 after 12 years at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), where he coordinated capacity-building programmes.

Foday Kargbo, Principal Finance and Admin Management Officer

Foday Kargbo is a professional accountant with over 18 years of professional expertise in finance, accounting and administration and 12 years cumulative experience in managerial positions. He has been with the AWF for five years in his current role. Prior to joining the AWF, Foday worked with the Association of Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), a Trust Fund hosted by the African Development Bank; the African Union as a Finance and Administrative Officer; and with various sections of Doctors without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières) in Liberia, Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Sudan as a Financial Controller.

Liliane Kente, Principal Sanitation Specialist

Liliane Kente is a Rwandan national and a water and sanitation specialist at AWF. She has more than 15 years' experience in the sector and currently manages a portfolio of five water-sanitation-environment projects across Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, and Togo. She believes that every human has the right to basic water and sanitation services, and she works to improve universal access across Africa.

Hellen Njiwa, Principal Monitoring, Evaluation and Project Portfolio Management Expert

Hellen Njiwa is a Malawian national and AWF's Principal Monitoring, Evaluation and Project Portfolio Management Expert. She has more than 15 years' experience in development, monitoring, management, analysis and packaging of results data and designing impacts. Prior to joining the Bank, she worked for the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). In both roles, she was responsible for monitoring and evaluation of complex regional projects.

Diane Arjoon, Principal Rural Water Security Officer

Diane Arjoon is a Canadian national and AWF's Principal Rural Water Security Officer. She is a water engineer who has worked on projects in Africa since 2015. Previously, she worked as a transboundary water resources management and development consultant at the World Bank and African Development Bank. Diane believes that water is a key stress multiplier in Africa and works to enhance water security through strengthening enabling environments.

Fred Tumusiime, Principal Sanitation Specialist

Fredrick Tumusiime is from Uganda and is AWF's Principal Sanitation Specialist. He is a civil engineer with 18+ years of water-related professional experience. His work at the AWF covers Somalia, Ghana, and the Lake Chad basin. He is driven by the knowledge that water affects almost every aspect of life on earth.

Elicad Ely Nyabeeya, Water Resources Management and Climate Change Technical Advisor

Elicad Ely Nyabeeya is a Ugandan national and AWF's Water Resources Management and Climate Change Technical Advisor, where he provides support in developing and implementing climate-resilient WASH projects. Elicad has 26 years of professional work experience with the United Nations, European Union and Nile Basin Initiative in project identification, preparation, coordination, and implementation of multi-sectorial, climate-resilient projects in the water sector and institutional capacity building.

Nicholas Azza, Water Resource Management Advisor

Nicholas Azza is a Ugandan water professional with 32 years of work experience in integrated water resource management, transboundary water governance, national and regional water policy, water quality and environmental management, and water supply and sanitation. Nicholas has worked with many of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Transboundary Lake/River Basin Organizations (RBOs) on the African continent, and with the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW). Since 2019, Nicholas has been providing technical support to the AWF's programmatic and strategic activities, including in program formulation, strategic planning, and corporate reporting.

Debjoyto Mukherjee, Principal Public-Private Partnership Finance Specialist

Debjoyto Mukherjee is an Indian national and the PPP Finance Specialist of the African Water Facility. Before joining the Facility in 2019, he worked as PPP specialist for the PFI transaction advisory services. During his career of 28 years with 18 years in PPP, Debjoyto has worked on more than 100 infrastructure development projects globally, including water and sanitation, at various stages of the project cycle. Currently, he is task managing the establishment of AWF's Africa Urban Sanitation Initiative (AUSII), and he provides inputs at the project level from the perspectives of private sector engagement.

Cecil Dulu Nundwe, Principal Water Resources Management Specialist

Cecil Dulu Nundwe is a Zambian national who joined the African Water Facility in 2019, from the World Bank. Cecil has over 27 years of experience in the water supply, sanitation, and water resources sectors. He has worked with governments, the private sector and development corporation organisations on policy development, institutional and legal reforms, covering both executive and regulatory functions. He has a keen interest in institutions and law as the interface between public and private sector roles and responsibilities in development.

Rolande Sagbo-Kouame, Team Assistant

Rolande Sagbo-Kouame is an Ivorian national and AWF's team assistant. She works closely with the coordinator and the team, helping with day-to-day management of the Facility, supporting event logistics, and providing administrative support for the smooth running of the team.



Looking to the future, assuring water security is a necessary condition for realising Africa's development agenda as encapsulated in Agenda 2063. The African Water Facility plays a significant role in financing the development, utilisation, and management of Africa's water resources towards attaining this goal. In addition, the sanitation financing window of the AWF's Africa Urban Sanitation Investment Initiative (AUSII) will support Member States to deliver safely managed sanitation services with major implications for human and environmental health. The utility of the African Water Facility to Africa's aspirations for economic growth and social transformation is clear and germane.

– Dr Rashid Mbaziira, Executive Secretary, AMCOW

