

# African Water Facility Showcase

Achieving water security and sanitation for all in Africa

JUNE 2023



## SITUATIONAL CONTEXT

Access to water and sanitation in Africa remains poor.

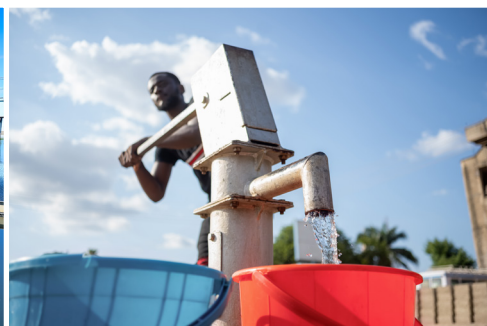
Over **400 million people**  lack basic water supply services

More than **200 million people**  are forced to practice open defecation

While **700 million people**  have no access to basic hygiene services

Africa has a current rate of access to urban sanitation of less than 50% and its population is projected to surpass 1.3 billion people by 2050. There is thus enormous potential to improve lives through investing in the development and implementation of critical water infrastructure projects and water management measures. It is estimated that Africa requires investments of \$55-66 billion per year for water and sanitation infrastructure.

The African Water Facility (AWF) was created to help address these challenges. The Facility is currently making a significant step-change to address the increased demand for climate resilient water and sanitation services in Africa.





## OUR STEP-CHANGE



**AWF is a unique continental accelerator** mobilising financial resources to support the preparation of investments aimed at achieving water security and sanitation for all. As a special multilateral fund launched in 2006 by the African Ministers' Council on Water and hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB), AWF provides demand-driven financial and technical assistance accessible to all African countries, to enable governments to invest in water and sanitation service delivery.

As the **continent's only project preparation facility dedicated solely to climate-resilient water** and sanitation projects, we obtain results by preparing bankable projects, helping countries secure investment financing, making innovative and catalytic investments that leverage capital, and improving governance across the water sector.



Since December 2021, under new leadership and with a **revised, robust strategy for 2017-2025**, AWF has strengthened its convening power and increased its operational efficiency. This has enabled the facility to step up the relevance and impact of its work to more effectively address persistent deficiencies in access to water and sanitation in Africa.

### Key indicators of AWF's transformation include:

- An expansion of AWF's business portfolio through increased calls for proposals and the establishment of a significant pipeline of projects for climate-resilient water and sanitation in Africa
- The 2022 integration of the functions of all of AfDB's water funds into AWF
- The 2022 decision for AWF to host, as a new financing window, the newly established African Urban Sanitation Investment Initiative (AUSII), which is dedicated to scaling up financing for urban sanitation
- The strengthening of AWF's governance provisions to align with international standards
- The strengthening, with USAID technical assistance, of AWF's operations to promote downstream investment
- Increased levels of interest expressed by partners in AWF's vision

## OUR VISION



An Africa where there is equitable management and development of water resources for poverty alleviation, socioeconomic development, regional cooperation, climate resilience and environmental protection, and where there is universal access to safe water supply, sanitation and hygiene services.

## OUR GOAL



Improved quality of life for urban and rural communities in Africa



## OUR TARGETS



By the **end of 2025**, to contribute to a **5% reduction in under-5 and population mortality** rates from water-related infectious diseases in beneficiary communities and to a **2% reduction of the number of people affected by water-related natural disasters**



To **significantly increase** and strengthen AWF's **upstream, climate-responsive project preparation portfolio**



To **significantly increase** and strengthen AWF's **downstream investment promotion strategies**



To **scale up AWF operations** to meet the emerging significant demands for **improved water and sanitation services in Africa**



To **scale up AUSII** with the aim of providing **within 10 years an additional 15 million urban inhabitants** with directly improved **access to sanitation**

## OUR TRACK RECORD



To date, our work has supported **133** water and sanitation projects in **52** African countries, bringing access to safe water supply to **14.1** million people (52% of whom are women) and providing sanitation services to **9.19** million people



## AWF has a 17-year record of achieving results that improve millions of lives.

Our transparent, accountable business delivery systems reduce transaction costs and support innovation, as we work directly with African governments and institutions. Our work builds on the collective knowledge and commitment of AfDB and supports its mission of economic development and social progress.

AWF is currently processing over 400 climate-responsive water and sanitation project proposals resulting from a recent call for proposals. This new development has the potential to shift AWF from a current annual fiscal commitment of €15–20 million for project preparation to €50–60 million per year for 2023–2025, with a resultant leveraging of downstream finance and AfDB-supported deal structuring of more than €1.5 billion per year. Since inception, for each €1 committed, we have mobilized €29 in downstream investments for improved water and sanitation services.

## OUR REQUIREMENTS

Historically, AWF has benefitted from strong support from AfDB, African beneficiaries and member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). To date, AWF has received €205 million in contributions, but our step-change requires more financial support for us to achieve our ambitious targets.

It is to this end that the **AWF Funding Dialogue** will take place on **12–13 October 2023** at the OECD in **Paris, France**.

This meeting will seek to secure three kinds of commitments:

- **Commitments to AWF's core funding for the period ending in 2025** – About 30% of the budget of €62.2 million for AWF's revised strategy for 2017–2025 is currently unfunded
- **Commitments to the African Urban Investment Initiative (AUSII)** – Support for the initial capitalisation of AUSII of \$15 million by the end of 2024
- **Strategic Support and expressions of interest** – To obtain strategic support to develop AWF's strategy for 2026–2030 and to secure expressions of interest to financially support AWF from 2026

For more information, please contact:



**Mtchera Johannes Chirwa**  
AWF Coordinator  
m.chirwa@afdb.org



**Samuel Blazyk**  
AWF Chief Program and  
Coordination Officer  
s.blazyk@afdb.org



**Simon Wreford-Howard**  
AWF Advisor, Resource Mobilization  
s.wreford-howard@afdb.org



**African Water Facility | Facilité africaine de l'eau**

Administered by the African Development Bank |  
Banque Africaine de Développement  
BP 1387 Abidjan 01, Côte d'Ivoire, Immeuble Tour B, Cité Administrative  
Avenue Jean Paul II | Tour B 14th Floor

[www.africanwaterfacility.org](http://www.africanwaterfacility.org) ✉ [africanwaterfacility@afdb.org](mailto:africanwaterfacility@afdb.org)