



**BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation**

## SAO-CWIS

(Strengthening AfWA and Operators capacity for the implementation of City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation in Africa)

### Background

Access to safely managed sanitation services is one of the crucial challenges for most African countries. The quality and coverage of services by sanitation operators are inadequate due to many factors, including institutional fragmentation, lack of leadership, weak regulatory frameworks, poor skills in management, operation and maintenance of sanitation systems, and lack of sustainable financing models for on-going service provision. This situation is worsened by a fast population growth and sprawling and uncontrolled urbanization. In 2006, the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on water and sanitation recognized the WOP (Water Operators' Partnerships) approach - which fosters capacity building and knowledge sharing through partnerships of water and sanitation operators - as an effective means of overcoming identified challenges and thus of improving the performance of the operators and fast-track progress in achieving the MDGs for water and sanitation services.

With the funding and technical support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation during the period 2016-2018, AfWA launched a round of sanitation operators partnerships (SOP) within the "Reinforcing Capacity of African Sanitation Operators on non-sewer and fecal sludge management through peer-to-peer learning partnership" (RASOP-Africa) with the aim at improving the quality of urban fecal sludge management and non-sewer sanitation services and coverage for at least one million people in the Sub-Saharan Africa region through improving strategic sanitation planning, development of sustainable projects, and institutionalization of sustainable operational and financing framework for sanitation in utilities and/or municipalities.

Building on this SOPs experience that created a big momentum for sanitation partnerships in Africa, a new project named «Strengthening AfWA and operators» capacity for the implementation of city-wide inclusive sanitation in Africa (SAO-CWIS)» has been initiated with the aim to expand the approach to other African cities and AfWA members in order to contribute to the SDGs and the overall urban sanitation agenda in Sub-Saharan Africa following the City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation approach.

### Goal

This project aims at supporting AfWA to achieve its broad mandate in capacity building of African sanitation stakeholders in order to contribute to the SDGs and the overall urban sanitation agenda in Sub-Saharan Africa following the city wide inclusive sanitation approach

### Program components

1. Improve AfWA organizational effectiveness to undertake its mission and vision in Africa
2. Improve the capacity of 300 African sanitation stakeholders from 30 cities for the implementation of City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS)
3. Adopt innovative approaches and technologies in 06 African cities for implementation of CWIS
4. Improve the enabling environment for the implementation of CWIS in 30 African cities in Africa through advocacy and communication
5. Empowerment of the leadership of 400 African Women Professionals in the African WASH sector

### Implementation strategy

The overall strategy will comprise three (03) levels of operation: (i) Overall coordination at AfWA headquarters in Abidjan, (ii) Classroom trainings through the AWASA structure and (iii) Peer-to-peer learning activities facilitated by Regional Implementing Partners.

### Implementing Partners:

- African Water Association (AfWA)
- African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW)
- Regional Implementing Partners:
  - West Africa: CEMEAU (ONEA), Burkina Faso
  - Central Africa: ERA, Cameroun
  - East Africa: IREC (NWSC), Uganda
  - Southern Africa: eThekweni Municipality and UKZN, South Africa

**Life of Program:** 2020 - 2023

**Provisional budget:** USD 5,400,000 Funded by BMGF and USAID

**Geographic Focus:** Africa

For more informations  
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