



ACTIVITIES REPORT

2021

African Water Association (AfWA)

Table of Contents

I. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING



p. 6

II. CAPACITY BUILDING OF WATER AND SANITATION OPERATORS IN AFRICA



p. 11

III. DIVERSIFYING PARTNERSHIPS



p. 18

IV. IMPROVING AfWA's VISIBILITY



p. 24

Acronyms.....3
 Abstract.....4-5

1.1. Capacity building of governance bodies and compliance with the regulatory framework..... 7
 1.2. Increasing the membership of the Association..... 8
 1.3. Improvement of the operational and managerial performance of the Association.....9

2.1. Increased knowledge and adoption of good practices by operators..... 12
 2.2. Increased knowledge and adoption of innovative sector management approaches/technologies by operators.....15

3.1. Increasing the number of partnerships to promote synergies of action19
 3.2. Revitalizing networks of sector actors for active participation20

4.1. Wider dissemination of information on AfWA's activities and the sector.....25
 4.2. Greater sharing of knowledge about the WASH sector.....26
 4.3. Increased AfWA presence at regional and international events.....27
 4.4. Awareness raising/advocacy for stakeholders and policy makers in the sector.....28

Conclusion30

Acronyms

AfWA	African Water Association	NWSC	National Water and Sewerage Corporation
AfriCap	AfWA Regional Institutional Capacity Building Program	OFID	The OPEC Fund for International Development
AWASA	African Academy of Water and Sanitation	ONEA	National Office for Water and Sanitation
BMGF	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	O&M	Operations and Maintenance
BWB	Blantyre Water Board	POE	Partnership Organisational Effectiveness
CAWST	Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology	SAO-CWIS	Strengthening AfWA and Operators' capacity for the implementation of City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation in Africa
CWIS	City Wide Inclusive Sanitation	SEG	Guinea Water Utility
EB	Executive Board	STC	Scientific and Technical Council
GAPWAS	German African Partnership for Water And Sanitation	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
GWOPA	Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance	WACEE	West African. Clean Energy & Environment Trade
GWP	German Water Partnership	WOP	Water Operators' Partnership
IRC	Stichting IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre	WRC	Water Research Commission
LCDE	La Congolaise Des Eaux	WSTWSS	Wolaita Sodo Town Water Supply and Sewerage Services of Ethiopia
MuniWASH	Municipal Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Project in West Africa		
NRW	Non-Revenue Water		



The Executive Board of AfWA

Abstract

In view of the persistence of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021, the African Water Association (AfWA) continued to hold its statutory meetings by video-conference. On March 31, 2021, the General Assembly adopted a new name for AfWA: “African Water and Sanitation Association (AfWASA)”.

Through this name change, the Association wants to highlight the important contribution of its members to the sanitation component. Another highlight of the year was the member satisfaction and needs survey conducted by AfWA in order to develop a new strategy for mobilizing members, with a range of services more appropriate to their needs.

At the operational level, the hiring of a Gender Specialist has enabled progress in terms of taking the gender dimension into account. Among other things, two webinars were held to mobilize women professionals’ networks to participate in the 9th World Water Forum (WWF9) in Dakar in March 2022, training sessions were organized on gender issues and an action plan for gender mainstreaming was developed.

Programmatic activities continued with the signing of MoUs with regional implementing partners (PREMOs) and the official launch of SAO/CWIS projects in 14 beneficiary countries. In addition, training of trainers in CWIS and refresher courses were organized for members of the AfWA's Water Quality and Non-revenue Water Taskforces under the AfriCap program.

Benchmarking and auditing activities within the framework of peer-to-peer partnerships were organized as well as technical training sessions for utilities on the WOP-GWOPA project under OFID funding. Other key activities included the launch of technical webinars "Ask The Experts" organized in collaboration with the GAPWAS project funded by the German Water Partnership (GWP).

In terms of partnerships, MoUs were signed with the Water Research Commission, the African Development Bank and the MuniWash/ Tetra Tech project funded by USAID. As part of its partnership with the World Water Council, a support is provided by AfWA to the

Executive Secretariat of the 2022 WWF9 for promotional and mobilization activities of the participants. In the same vein, AfWA has actively participated in several webinars organized by partners in the sector, such as the IWA Digital Congress, the 9th edition of the WACEE (West African Clean Energy & Environment Trade fair and conference) or the 4th GWOPA Congress.

Finally, the Association has expanded its communication and knowledge sharing activities with the expansion of its network of WASH journalists for greater media coverage on the one hand, and with the revitalization of its Knowledge Sharing platform and the launch of communities of practice on key sector topics on the other hand.



AfWA's Executive Board Meeting



**INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING
TO IMPROVE THE LEADERSHIP OF THE
WASH SECTOR IN AFRICA AND GUARANTEE
BETTER SERVICE TO MEMBERS**

Strengthening governance bodies

The 2021 meetings of the Scientific and Technical Council (STC) were organized by videoconference in March, July and November 2021. They were attended by nearly 630 stakeholders, of which an average of 38% were women.

The meetings of the four sub-committees Finance, Governance, Membership Engagement and Development and Capacity Building were held in the same periods as well as the meetings of the Executive Board. During its meetings, the Board validated the 2020 annual and financial activity reports and the 2021 budget as well as new criteria for the selection of the Chairman of the Strategic Capacity Building Subcommittee as part of the update of its terms of reference.

In addition, the main results of the member satisfaction and needs survey conducted from December 2020 to February 2021 by the consulting firm IRC Burkina Faso were presented to the Board. The report of the survey recommends in particular the implementation of the proposed restructuring of the governance and bodies, and the

taking into account of the gender dimension during the next renewal of the Board.

In terms of organ strengthening, AfWA's Managing Directors benefited from a training in "Change Management" from June 7 to 21, 2021 under the aegis of the GAPWAS project financed by the German Water Partnership (GWP). Prior to this, on March 31, 2021, the General Assembly adopted the new name of the Association which has thus become the "African Water and Sanitation Association (AfWASA)".

2021 Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Council

March 15-18 / July 26-28 / November 15-17



630
Participants



38%
of women



62%
of men

Increasing the membership of the Association



Group picture of the members of AfWA's General Assembly

By the end of December 2021, AfWA had registered 8 new members. A new strategy for mobilizing members, with a range of services more appropriate to their needs, will be developed based on the results of the satisfaction and needs survey of the members.

The recruitment process for a Director of Membership Services is underway. A Database Manager was recruited in November 2021, with the support of the GAPWAS project. He is responsible for reviewing the Membership Database and developing a database of member utility performance indicators.

Membership 2021



+8
New
Members

An AMAS database software was purchased to facilitate the management of members and partners. Thus, various actions have been undertaken to better monitor the membership (adoption of member ID, configuration of the member card in the “member space” of the website, etc.).

¹Affiliate members: ODIAL et TECOFI, France ; AMENYD, Tunisia ; ENVAL Laboratoires Côte d'Ivoire
Individual members: Désiré Ketu MIHIGO, DRC ; M. Lansana Gagny SAKHO, Senegal ; Harsen NYANMBE, Ethiopia ; Seyhi BRAHIMA, Canada

Improving the operational and managerial performance of the Association

At the end of March 2021, the Membership Services and Programs teams moved to a more suitable location with better electricity provision. At the same time, AfWA launched a call for applications regarding the competition for the design of the architectural plan of its headquarters in order to strengthen its autonomy and foster closer collaboration among staff members. Also, four staff members were recruited to strengthen the executive team: the Gender Specialist, the Senior Sanitation Program Coordinator in charge of the SAO-CWIS (Strengthening AfWA and Operators' capacity for the implementation of City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation) program, the Sanitation Training Officer and the Database Manager.

Staff job descriptions were reviewed to better align them with the Organization's strategic goals and staff members received capacity building. Some staff members have attended the online training "Engendering Industries" offered by USAID, which aims to equip managers to take the gender

dimension into account. Building on this, AfWA will conduct a gender analysis to inform the development of its gender strategy. The review of the management manuals has also begun and will help streamline the procurement process and accounting operations.



Mr. Sylvain Usher, Executive Director of AfWA



A view of the session table at an AfWA workshop

In preparation for the 2nd evaluation mission of the Partnership Organizational Effectiveness in January 2022 commissioned by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, a workshop to review the implementation of the recommendations of the organizational audit conducted in June 2018 was held on September 28, 2021 in Abidjan in the presence of AfWA staff. At the end of the workshop, an action plan was available for the implementation of the last recommendations by the end of December 2021. The recruitment of a consultant is planned to assist AfWA in its resource mobilization strategy for greater financial autonomy.



CAPACITY BUILDING OF WATER AND SANITATION OPERATORS IN AFRICA TO IMPROVE THEIR PERFORMANCE

Increased knowledge and adoption of good practices by operators

From February 8 to 10, 2021, the online training on project proposal writing for the beneficiary water utilities, Wolaita Sodo Town Water Supply and Sewerage Services (WSTWSS) of Ethiopia and Blantyre Water Board (BWB) of Malawi under the OFID/GWOPA project, was held. A total of 18 participants from the beneficiary utilities attended. At the end of the workshop a project proposal for the reduction of NRW was developed by each utility, with the support

of the e-Thekwini municipality mentor, and submitted to GWOPA (Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance). In September 2021, 27 representatives from WSTWSS and BWB were trained by experts from the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) on various topics (NRW, Operations & Maintenance, Services to Poor Households, Customers and Water Services Management).



An emptying operator in full activity





In the framework of the AfriCap program and in partnership with the GAPWAS program, a NRW Taskforce members' refresher training was held from June 2 to 4, 2021. A total of 38 participants were trained. Two NRW benchmarking missions were subsequently organized at ONEA, Burkina Faso, and National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) in Uganda, from August 23 to 25, 2021; about ten representatives of the beneficiary utilities² were present. Five out of six NRW audits were conducted at beneficiaries' sites from October to November 2021, and will continue in 2022. The online refresher training for members of the Water Quality Taskforce in "WQ laboratory auditing" was organized from November 24 to 26, 2021 for 43 professionals from member utilities.

² SOMAGEP-Mali, SEG-Guinea, LCDE-Congo-Brazza and STE-Chad at ONEA, Juba-South Sudan at NWSC

The launch ceremonies in the 14 beneficiary countries³ of the SAO-CWIS program took place from September to November 2021. They mobilized several actors and stakeholders in the sector and AfWA officially handed over computer equipment to beneficiaries. A training guide for the training of trainers in CWIS was developed and validated by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

In collaboration with CAWST (Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology), six training sessions were held from November 23 to December 14, 2021 for 39 sanitation experts. During the year 2022, these experts will in turn train the actors of the 52 cities covered by the program on the CWIS theme.



Session table during the launch of the AfWA inclusive Sanitation Capacity Building Program in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire



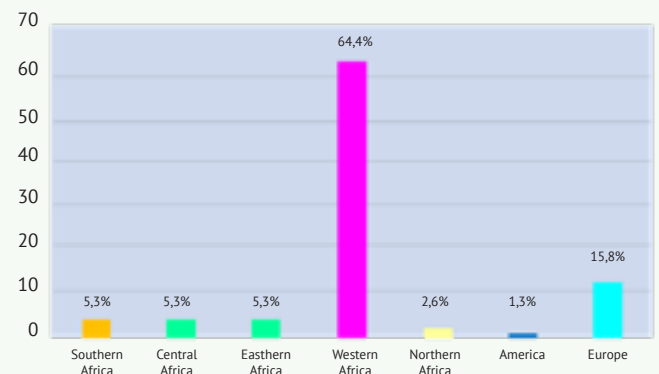
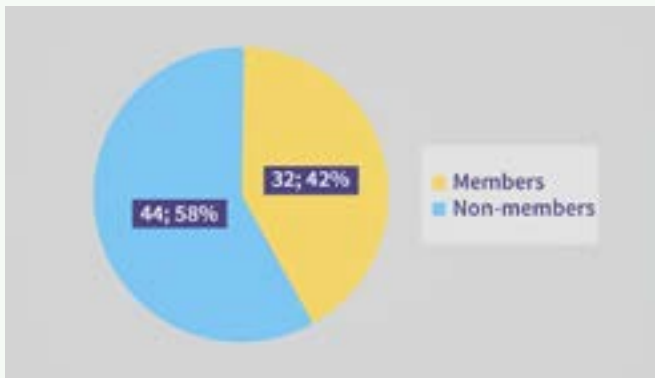
³ Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, DRC, Sierra Leone, Togo, Zambia

Increased knowledge and adoption of innovative sector management approaches/technologies by operators

As part of the operationalization of the African Water and Sanitation Academy (AWASA), discussions were held with NWSC-Uganda for the appointment of an Interim Coordinator. The latter took office in April 2021 and is responsible, among other things, for the development of AWASA's business plan. An assessment mission was also conducted from July 5 to 16, 2021 by the German agency SEQUA, for a cooperation project between AfWA and GWP. This three-year project starting in 2022 aims to support the operationalization of AWASA with pilot activities in Senegal and

Rwanda and is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in the framework of its "PartnerAfrika" program.

As part of the GAPWAS project, the first "ASK THE EXPERTS" webinar under the GAPWAS project was held on November 11, 2021 with 76 participants (42% members) on the topic: "Water Decontamination (Heavy Metals, Arsenic & Manganese)".



Ask the Experts - Distribution of participants by status and region



241
Actors
beneficiaries

During the year 2021, 241 actors benefited from capacity building by AfWA through its training activities and technical exchanges.



TECHNICAL EXCHANGE

« ASK THE EXPERTS »

Theme

DECONTAMINATION OF WATER (heavy metals, arsenic & manganese)

11th November 2021



10:00 - 12:00 Abidjan time
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. German time



Zoom meeting



Moderator

Mr. Sylvain USHER
Executive Director
AFWA, Côte d'Ivoire



Dr. Stéphane CLAON
Director, Water
Quality Control Lab
ONEP, Côte d'Ivoire



Dr. Dirk STEINHILBER
Global Technical
Marketing Manager
LANXESS, Deutschland



Eng. Mathias STIEF
Chief Operating Officer
PWT Wasser- und
Abwassertechnik GmbH,
Deutschland



Dr. Seydou NIANG
Research Officer
LATEU, Senegal

Panelists



Synthèses des différents mémoires et rapports de recherche des **Jeunes Professionnels Africains de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement (JPAfEA)**



Under the Research and Training program, a compilation of factsheets of the research results of scholarship beneficiaries is being finalized. As a reminder, 60 scholarships were offered to master's level students from 2017 to 2019, and their research results have been disseminated through AfWA's knowledge sharing platform for sector performance improvement. A 2017-2019 Compendium for Capitalization is also under development while Phase 2 of the program is being prepared, with 45 scholarships to be awarded.



2017 - 2019
60 scholarships offered to students through AfWA.



**DIVERSIFICATION OF PARTNERSHIPS
AND SYNERGIES OF ACTION WITH
STAKEHOLDERS IN THE SECTOR
FOR GREATER IMPACT**

Increasing the number of partnerships to promote synergies of action



Validation workshop of baseline studies under the MuniWash project, June 15-16, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Partnership agreements have been signed with five regional implementing partners to assist AfWA in implementing its peer-to-peer partnership programs. On June 14, 2021, AfWA also signed an agreement with MuniWASH (Municipal Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Project in West Africa) to collaborate in the field of knowledge sharing.

An agreement has been signed with AfDB for a study on the impact of reforms on the sector's performance and for the establishment of a benchmarking database on water and sanitation utilities' indicators in Africa. In addition, discussions are underway with partners (UNICEF, UN-Habitat, TA-Hub/BMGF) to extend CWIS training to other actors.

Reinvigorating the networks of actors in the sector for an active participation

On the occasion of the International Women's Day celebrated on March 8, 2021, AfWA published a poster in honor of the chairpersons of the national women professionals' networks to commend their leadership. The Uganda Young Professionals Committee also hosted a webinar, **"Women leading the way"** in collaboration with AfWA and IWA.

As a prelude to WWF9 2022 and to motivate the active participation of women's networks, AfWA hosted a webinar on July 14, 2021 on: **"Strategic positioning and visibility of African networks of women WASH professionals"**

A second webinar was held on November 24, 2021 on the theme: **"Repositioning Women: Essential for Achieving MDG 6"**. In total, approximately 400 stakeholders, 85% of whom were women, participated in the two webinars.



Group photo of WASH Women's Professional Networks



Active participation of women's networks ▶



1,000 young people at the 9th World Water Forum

AfWA continues to support the activities of the national committees of young professionals. Thus, two national committees, namely those of Mali and Côte d'Ivoire, renewed their bureaus and elected new chairpersons. AfWA is also supporting the organizing committee of the 2022 WWF9 in its strategy to mobilize 1,000 young people. A meeting was held on October 14, 2021 in Dakar to define the objectives of the "Youth Village".



WEBINAR FOR PROFESSIONAL WOMEN NETWORKS IN WASH

organised by the African Water Association

Towards the 9th World Water Forum Dakar 2022

Theme : "Strategic Positioning and Visibility of African WASH Professional Women Networks"



Wednesday
July 14th
2021

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. GMT

Hosts



Dr. Rose KAGGWA
Director Business and
Scientific Services
(NWSC)



Dr. Leticia ACKUN
Gender Specialist
(AIWA)

Moderator



Barbara KAZIMBAYA-SENKWE
Senior WASH Governance Advisor
(USAID)

Keynote address



Olushola OLAYIDE
(Africa Union Commission)

Panelists



Geraldine MPOUMA LOGMO
Communication and
Public Relations Manager
(CAMWATER)



Benedict TUFFOUR
Planner Development,
Governance Expert
(TREND)



Diana Nkasha MAKWABA
General Director of Water
(NWSC)



Fatou NDIAYE
Technical Advisor
(SONES)

www.afwa-hq.org

Professional Women's Networks Webinar, July 14, 2021



Young Professionals Meeting, October 2021, Dakar, Senegal

As part of the support to the AfWA network of WASH journalists, a webinar was organized on May 26, 2021 on “Water Quality Challenges in Africa: What AfWA Solution Approaches to Improve Quality Monitoring by Operators?”. The webinar, which was attended by 115 media professionals, is part of a series aimed at informing them of AfWA’s activities, enhancing their knowledge of sector issues, and promoting broad media coverage.



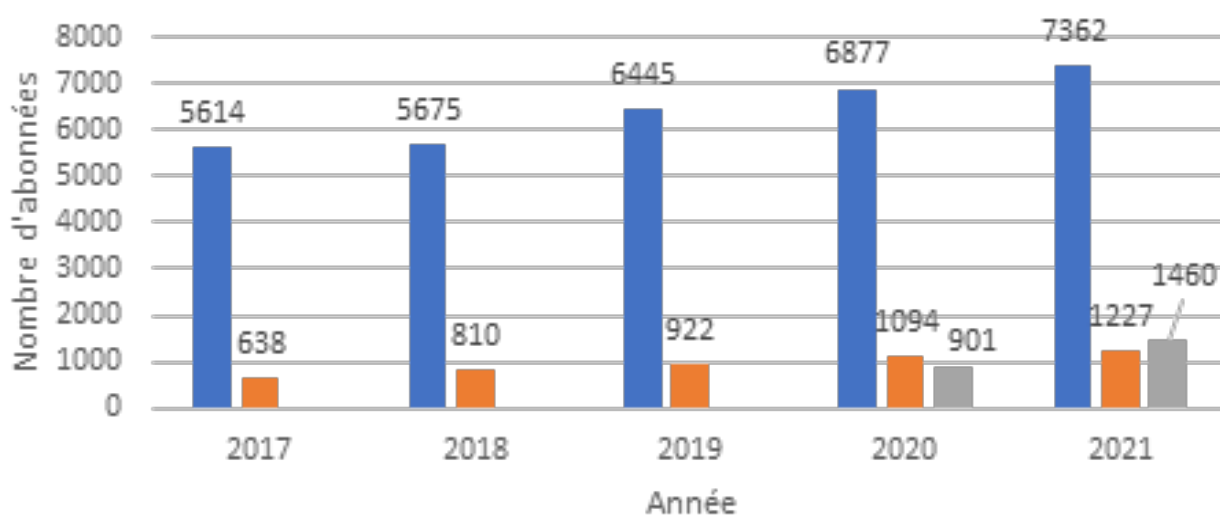


IMPROVING AfWA's VISIBILITY TO INCREASE ITS RECOGNITION AS AN EXCHANGE AND ADVOCACY PLATFORM FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SECTOR

Wider dissemination of information about AfWA's activities and the sector

AfWA has expanded its network of communication experts with the creation of a WASH Journalists' Network. A WhatsApp group was created, and by the end of December 2021 this group had 31 journalists from 17 African countries. Media coverage of AfWA's activities and those of its members and partners, including stakeholder networks, is therefore being provided by a larger number of journalists for greater visibility. This gradually translates into an increased number of subscribers to AfWA's social networks.

In addition to the monthly newsletters, the 2021 Yearbook and AfWA NEWS magazines Nos. 129-131 were produced and disseminated as well as several announcements, articles and visuals related to AfWA's activities, members and partners. The website and social networks were regularly updated, including program-specific pages. AfWA also contributed to the production of the monthly USAID WA/REGO Newsletter through various articles.



Number of subscribers on AfWA social networks

Increased knowledge sharing on the WASH sector



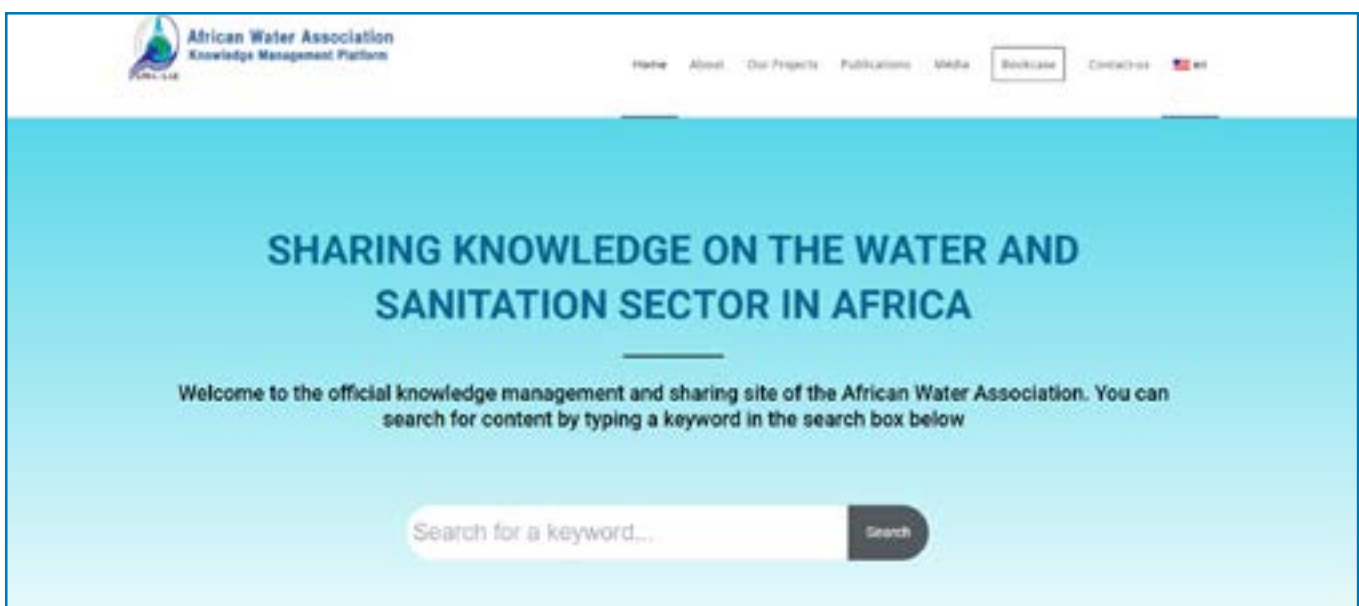
As part of its collaboration with the MuniWASH project, AfWA has disseminated on its knowledge sharing platform,

<https://www.afwkm.com/>

publications/, seven Learning Notes on the lessons learned and on the water and sanitation situation in Benin and Côte d'Ivoire. More than 70 technical papers and six video clips from the presentations at the STCs and the 20th AfWA Congress as well as the research findings of the beneficiaries of the fellowship program were also published.

On the digital library platform (<https://www.afwkm.com/bookcase/>), 61 MOOC videos and some 40 documents on the sector's themes were disseminated.

ShareWater Magazine No. 11, published on the AfWA website and on the knowledge sharing platform, highlighted, among other things, innovative solutions for sludge recovery.



Screenshot of the water and sanitation sector Knowledge Sharing platform

Wider dissemination of information about AfWA's activities and the sector



IWA Digital Congress held from May 24 to June 4, 2021

During the year 2021, AfWA actively participated in a number of webinars organized by partners in the sector. On January 29, 2021, Association participated in the PAUWES (PAU Institute of Water and Energy Science) webinar on “Building Capacities” and presented its approach to capacity building. On March 18, 2021, AfWA was a panelist at the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation webinar on: “Achieving safely managed water services in Africa”. Twenty members of the Association attended the IWA Digital Congress held from May 24 to June

4, 2021. AfWA also participated as a panelist in the 9th edition of the WACEE (West African Clean Energy & Environment Trade fair and conference) from September 29 to 30 September 2021 and managed a virtual stand in collaboration with the GAPWAS project. Finally, AfWA attended the 4th GWOPA Congress from October 18 to 29 October 2021, where it organized the Africa Regional Event on “Boosting access to water and sanitation services in Africa through peer-to-peer learning partnerships of operators”.

Awareness raising/advocacy of sector stakeholders and policy makers

On April 29, 2021, AfWA participated in the first meeting of the ESAWAS Consultation Committee tasked with developing a reference document on WASH policies and regulatory framework in African countries. AfWA has produced a White Paper on Non-Revenue Water and a second White Paper on Water Quality will be developed in 2022. These documents

will be used by AfWA as a tool for awareness raising and advocacy. By 2021, more than 1,000 WASH actors have been reached through awareness-raising activities on sector issues during STC meetings and gender seminars organized by AfWA.

	STC 2015-2019	Congress 2016-2018	WQ Symposium	TOTAL 2015-2019	STC 2020	Congress 2020	Webinars 2020	TOTAL 2020	STC 2021	Webinars 2021	TOTAL 2021
Number of actors	1732	2998	71	4801	397	2312	973	3682	626	764	1390
Number of activities	13	2	1	16	2	1	14	17	3	9	12
<p>9873 actors (figure recorded by end 2021) have been reached since 2015 through 45 events (sensitization, advocacy, trainings) The 12 webinars series focusing on Covid-19 that were organized in 2020 has helped increased the total number of stakeholders reached by AfWA</p>											

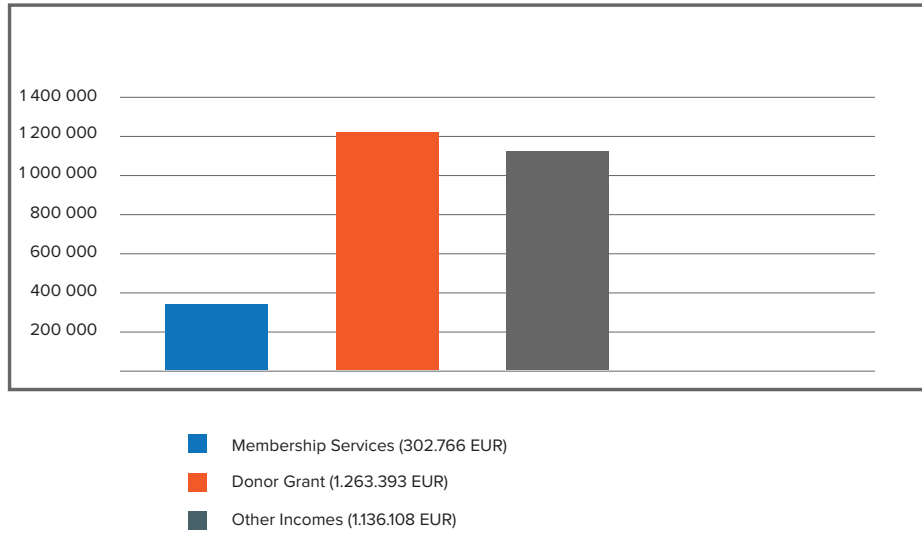
Number of stakeholders reached from 2015 to 2021 by AfWA's activities (training, awareness/advocacy)



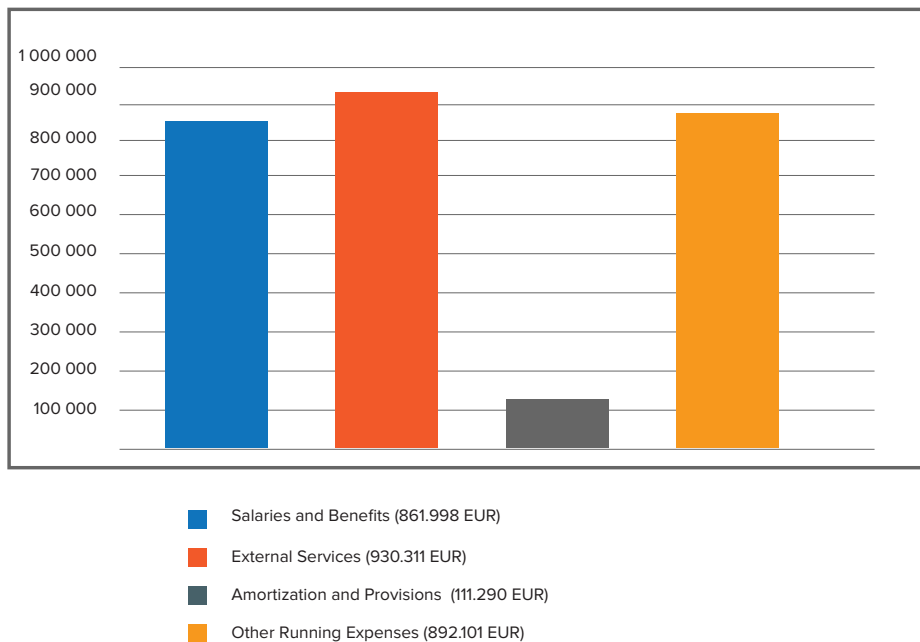
Mr. Sylvain Usher, Executive Director of AfWA received in audience by H.E. Mahamat Idriss Déby, President of the Republic of Chad

2021 Financial Overview

2021 Total Incomes



2021 Total Expenses



The rate of coverage of expenses by income received is 97%. Income from contributions represents 11% of income collected. This situation is a consequence of COVID 19 on the organization's activities.



A view of participants at the launch of the Inclusive Sanitation Capacity Building Project in Niamey, Niger in October 2021

Conclusion

During the year 2021, nearly 1,400 sector actors were reached by a dozen training and awareness/advocacy activities organized by AFWA. Since 2015, approximately 10,000 stakeholders have been reached through these AFWA activities. This number is expected to grow with the organization of the Association's Online Congress scheduled for July 2022 and the mass training sessions planned for members and other sector stakeholders under the programs. These include the scaling up of CWIS training in the 52 cities of the SAO- CWIS program and the regular organization of a series of

“ASK THE EXPERTS” webinars on various topics in collaboration with the GAPWAS project.

During 2022, peer-to-peer partnership activities in CWIS will begin, while activities on NRW and water quality will continue under the AfriCap program with the development of Performance Improvement Plans for beneficiaries. Three Communities of Practice in CWIS, Water Quality and NRW will be launched as additional knowledge sharing platforms for the benefit of sector stakeholders.

With the financial support of GWP/ BMZ for a period of 3 years under the “Partner Afrika” program, the operationalization of AWASA will begin with pilot activities in Senegal and Rwanda. In 2022, AfWA will also be undergoing an evaluation on the implementation of its programs under its partnerships with BMGF and SEQUA/GWP.

The 2018-2022 Strategic Plan will be reviewed and extended to 2023 to allow for the consideration of recommendations from these evaluations as well as the results of the member satisfaction and needs survey. Emphasis will also be placed on the development or review of certain strategic and operational documents, the implementation of the membership database and the “relooking” of AfWA website. The preparations for the 2022 AfWA Digital Congress, the 2023 Congress and the WWF9 in Dakar as well as the restructuring of the STC into a Specialized Working Group (SWG) will also be among the 2022 priorities.



In memory of the beloved



Diaw Fatoumata

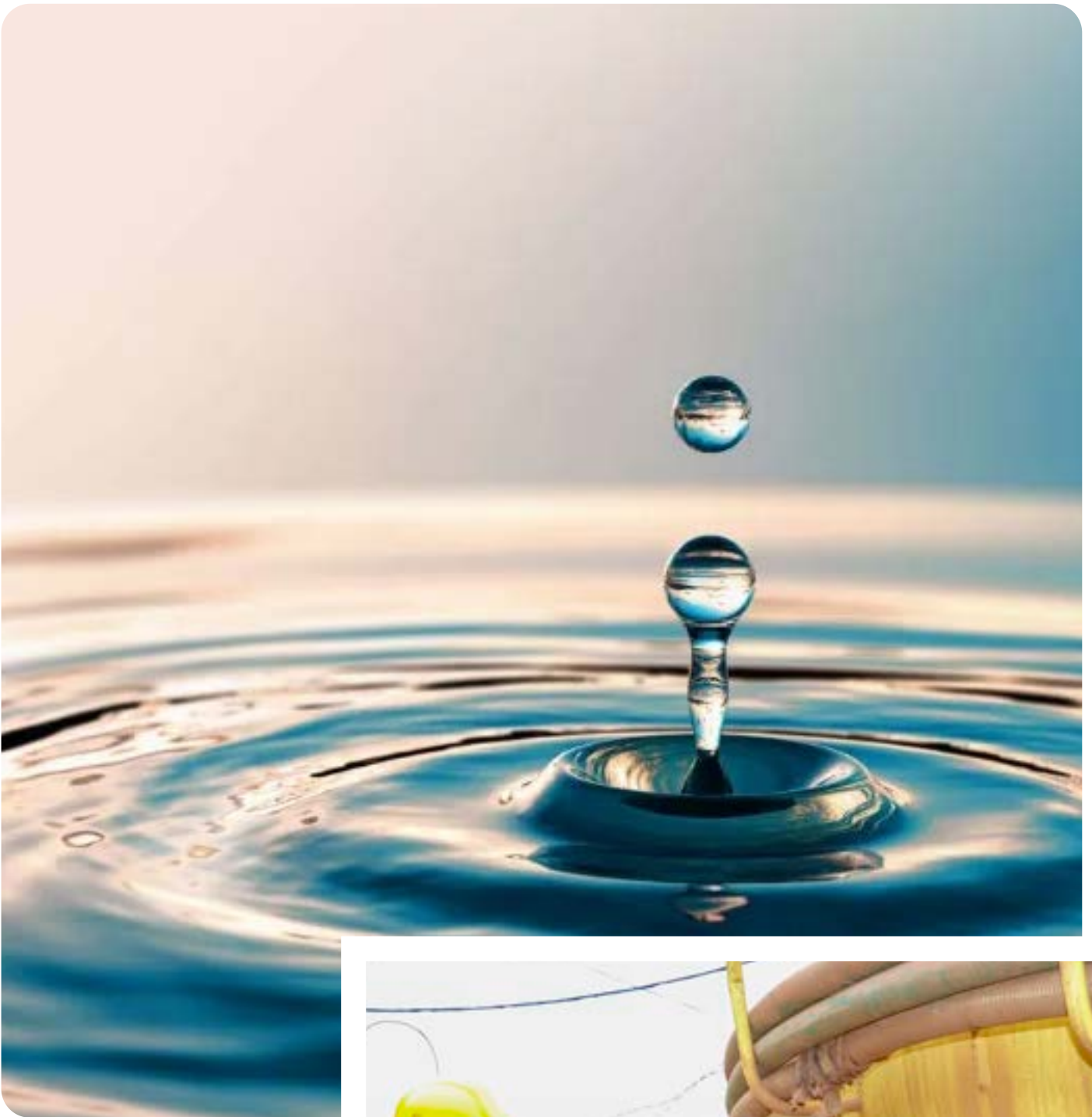
**Former Director of
Membership Services**



Boti-bi Ta Charles

**Former Consultant for
SIP-WOPs Project**







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