



African Water and
Sanitation Association

Association Africaine de
l'Eau et de l'Assainissement

AfWASA / AAEE

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT



2025

Eng. OLIVIER GOSSO

AfWASA Executive Director

SUMMARY

4 Message From the Executive Director

5 Executive Summary

8 List of Abbreviations

9 Strengthening of Governance

- ⊙ Renewal of AfWASA's Steering Committee: A New Term in Service of Strengthened Governance
- ⊙ Contribution of AfWASA's Executive Directorate to the Success of the 22nd International Congress and Exhibition
- ⊙ Accounting Compliance of AfWASA with the SYSCEBNL
- ⊙ Towards a Renewed Strategic and Technological Council in Service of African Innovation
- ⊙ Strengthening the Strategic Partnership between AfWASA and the African Development Bank

12 Strengthening Member Engagement

- ⊙ Situation des membres et évolution des adhésions
- ⊙ Partenariat stratégique avec l'université de DELFT
- ⊙ Plateforme d'échanges, déploiement de la plateforme numérique d'échanges et de collaboration
- ⊙ Expansion et engagement des membres : une stratégie structurée et inclusive
- ⊙ Rôle des événements et visibilité institutionnelle
- ⊙ Promotion du genre et inclusion sociale

15 Capacity Building of Stakeholders

- ⊙ Strengthening the Operational Performance of African Water Utilities through NRW Reduction and Water Quality Management
- ⊙ EMPOWERWASH-Africa – Phase II: Strengthening Local WASH Systems through Institutional Capacity Building and Youth Leadership Development
- ⊙ Strengthening Women's Leadership in the WASH Sector: AfWASA at the Heart of a More Equitable Pan-African Governance Framework
- ⊙ Strengthening Water Resilience to Flood Risks: AfWASA and the German Water Partnership at the Forefront of Capacity Building in Africa
- ⊙ AfWASA at World Water Week 2025: Amplifying the Voice of African Water Operators and Strengthening Global Partnerships
- ⊙ Strengthening Internal Excellence: AfWASA Invests in Continuous Improvement and Problem-Solving Skills
- ⊙ CWIS – Benchmarking Visit to Durban: Strengthening Inter-City Cooperation for Inclusive and Resilient Urban Sanitation Systems

20 Diversification of Partnerships

- ⊙ AfWASA at the Heart of the AMCOW Post-Vision 2025 Agenda: Strategic Contribution and Enhanced Regional Coordination in West Africa
- ⊙ AfWASA at the 2025 World Water Summit: Positioning Africa at the Heart of Global Investment and International Cooperation
- ⊙ AfWASA–GGGI: A Strategic Partnership to Position Sanitation at the Core of Climate Action and Green Finance

- 
- GAPWAS Toward 2025: Reviewing Achievements and Defining Strategic Priorities for the Final Phase of the German–African Partnership
 - AfWASA at the China Urban Water Association Forum: Advancing Technological Cooperation and Innovation for African Water Utilities
 - Benchmarking Mission to Tenerife: AfWASA Strengthens Euro–African Partnerships for Innovation and Financing of Water and Sanitation Services
 - AfWASA at the 2025 World Water Summit: Strengthening African Influence and Forging Strategic Partnerships for Investment and Innovation
 - Strengthening the Climate–Sanitation Nexus in Africa: AfWASA and GGGI Mobilize a New Generation of Regional Experts
 - Strengthening Ivorian–German Cooperation in the Water Sector: A Strategic Mission for Sustainable Partnerships and Innovation
 - AfWASA at the Launch of the GSGS Regional Hub: Strengthening Academic Training and Advocacy for Inclusive Sanitation in Africa
 - Closing of the ISC-Hub Program: AfWASA Celebrates Three Years of Impact in Advancing Inclusive Urban Sanitation in Africa
 - MERU University and AfWASA Join Forces to Develop the Next Generation of African Water and Sanitation Leaders
 - Signing of Memoranda of Understanding between AfWASA, WASTE and APAA: A Pan-African Alliance to Accelerate Sustainable Access to Water and Sanitation
 - AfWASA at the 6th Global WOPs Congress: African Leadership, International Cooperation, and Advancing Inclusion
 - AfWASA at the Luanda Summit: Advancing Innovative Models for Sustainable Financing of Water and Sanitation Services in Africa
 - Revitalizing the AfWASA–AHK Partnership: Strengthening German–African Cooperation in the Water and Sanitation Sector

29 Consolidation of AfWASA'S Continental Leadership and International Outreach Through its Major Strategic Engagements

- 22nd AfWASA International Congress and Exhibition in Kampala: A Major Pan-African Platform for Water and Sanitation in Africa
- 22nd AfWASA International Congress and Exhibition: A Landmark Pan-African Mobilization for Sustainable Water and Sanitation in Africa
- 96th STC Session in Yaoundé: A Strategic Milestone to Accelerate the Sustainable Transformation of Africa's Water and Sanitation Sector
- AfWASA at the IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition 2025: Strengthening Global Visibility and Advancing African Priorities
- Horizon 2026: Consolidating AfWASA's Institutional Model through Academic Excellence, Economic Innovation, and Digital Transformation



Ing. OLIVIER GOSSO

Directeur Exécutif de l'AAEA

Message from the Executive Director of AfWASA

Water and sanitation are fundamental pillars of human dignity, public health, social stability, and economic development in Africa. In the face of persistent structural challenges, rapid urbanization, climate pressures, financial constraints, and growing performance demands, the sector does not suffer from a lack of solutions, but rather from an urgent need for coherence, effective governance, and structured collective action.

In this context, AfWASA affirms a strong conviction: the sustainable transformation of the sector depends прежде foremost on strong institutions, responsible governance, and the ability to translate strategic visions into measurable results. The challenge is no longer to multiply initiatives, but to strengthen frameworks, align stakeholders, and direct efforts toward tangible and equitable impact for populations.

The momentum built in recent years reflects a clear commitment to institutional consolidation and strategic clarity. In alignment with SDG 6, Agenda 2063, and AMCOW priorities, AfWASA works to build inclusive, representative, and performance-oriented governance, while strengthening transparency and financial credibility an indispensable foundation for the trust of members and partners.

Beyond events and forums, AfWASA positions itself as a pan-African platform for dialogue, convergence, and influence, capable of bringing together policymakers, operators, experts, and partners around solutions tailored to African realities. This inclusive approach fully recognizes the role of women, youth, and local authorities as drivers of transformation. Knowledge structuring, innovation, and capacity development are also key levers. By fostering stronger linkages between science, data, technology, and operational practice, AfWASA contributes to the emergence of more robust and bankable projects, supported by enhanced strategic dialogue with financial partners.

More than ever, the challenge is to move from intentions to results: transforming commitments into investments, strategies into concrete actions, and knowledge into operational solutions. True to its mission, AfWASA will continue to act as a catalyst for impact, ensuring that universal access to water and sanitation becomes a sustainable and measurable reality for Africa.

Executive Summary





During the 2024–2025 period, the African Water Association (AfWASA) undertook a far-reaching institutional transformation aimed at strengthening governance, increasing member engagement, enhancing stakeholders' capacities, and diversifying strategic partnerships. In an African context shaped by climate urgency, demographic pressure, rapid urbanization, and massive investment needs, AfWASA affirmed a clear priority: to become an even more credible, high-performing continental platform, firmly oriented toward the delivery of measurable results in support of SDG 6.

Governance strengthening first materialized through the renewal of the Steering Committee for the 2025–2026 term, officially endorsed on 15 February 2025 in Kampala at the International Resource Centre (IRC) of the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC).

The new configuration comprising eighteen members from sixteen countries reflects a commitment to geographical and institutional balance, accountability, and strategic alignment. Beyond a statutory adjustment, this milestone represents a broader modernization of collective decision-making, complementarity of expertise, and closer consideration of African utilities' operational realities, in line with Agenda 2063 and AMCOW priorities.

In terms of visibility and influence, the mobilization of the Executive Directorate at the AfWASA CIE 2025 Congress proved to be a major lever. AfWASA coordinated the registration of 157 participants, organized six high-value paid sessions, and provided substantial support to three flagship thematic forums (women, young professionals, mayors),

reaffirming its commitment to inclusion and local leadership. This presence was further reinforced by a 54 m² institutional booth and a dedicated program with the African Development Bank (AfDB), consolidating a key strategic partnership. Support from leading donors and institutions including the AfDB, the Gates Foundation, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the DBSA, the Islamic Development Bank, and USAID underscores the confidence placed in AfWASA as a continental catalyst.

Financial governance consolidation was strengthened through the migration to the SYSCEBNL accounting framework, the West African standard for non-profit entities. Beyond compliance, this transition aims to improve traceability, financial information quality, and transparency critical factors for sustaining the Association's credibility and meeting the standards expected by technical and financial partners. In parallel, AfWASA reaffirmed its ambition to make scientific and technical leadership a driver of impact.

The launch workshop of the Strategic Council (SC), held in Lilongwe on 19–20 July 2025, laid the foundations for a renewed Strategic and Technical Council (STC): establishment of three sub-committees (Specialist Groups, Resource Mobilization, Innovation), harmonization of guidelines, alignment of the 2025–2026 action plans with strategic priorities, and confirmation of the AUDC, Xchange, and Knowledge Management platforms as structuring pillars. At the same time, AfWASA pursued an ambitious strategy to strengthen member engagement, supported by strong membership growth.

The figures illustrate a clear upward trajectory:

139 members (2022), 237 (2023), 284 (2024), and 359 by the end of June 2025, including 75 new members. In 2025 alone, 122 new registrations were recorded, largely driven by individual members (approximately 73% of effective memberships).

This attractiveness amplified by the mobilizing effect of major events confirms the role of institutional gatherings as key drivers of network growth, while also highlighting a priority: increasing institutional membership to better balance the member base, strengthen operator mobilization, and stabilize resources. In this spirit of qualitative expansion, AfWASA initiated high-impact partnerships, notably with Delft University of Technology, aiming to integrate approximately 600 alumni over three years (200 per year through 2027).

Beyond numerical growth, this alliance is designed to rejuvenate the network, enhance internationalization, and reinforce scientific anchoring, fostering the circulation of knowledge and innovation between Africa and leading academic hubs. Institutional modernization also accelerated through digital innovation, with the deployment of a collaboration and exchange platform whose 2024 milestones were achieved at 100%.

Following subscription (September), content structuring (November), and a pilot phase (December–February 2025), AfWASA launched a functional recalibration and a member-adoption strategy.

At this stage, 287 active users, 87 companies listed in the directory, and 19 thematic communities signal the emergence of a unifying tool to structure knowledge production and enhance member value.

On capacity building, AfWASA intensified its flagship programs. AfriCap 2 continued the implementation of fifteen Performance Improvement Plans (PIPs) focused on Non-Revenue Water (NRW) and water quality. Six utilities were engaged on NRW (SOMAGEP, SEG, REGIDESO, LCDE, South Sudan Water, STE), while nine laboratories benefited from quality improvement actions across several countries. Robust implementation governance (documentation,

procurement committees, USAID reporting) and a South–South cooperation approach (peer support from GWCL and ONEA for quality manual finalization) reflect a commitment to measurable and replicable performance. EMPOWERWASH-AFRICA strengthened a systems-based approach at the local level: contracting expert support, a launch workshop in Kigali, institutional assessments using the Institutional Strengthening Index (ISI) in twelve municipalities across six countries, development of costed plans, and advocacy support.

The program also marked a strategic milestone with the selection of a first cohort of fifteen young professional fellows, investing in skills renewal for the future of the sector. AfWASA consolidated its cross-cutting commitments, particularly on gender, by strengthening the Pan-African Network of Women Professionals and delivering a leadership training-of-trainers in Grand-Bassam that brought together 23 participants from 13 countries.

Flood resilience was reinforced through two technical workshops co-organized with GWP (Douala and Abidjan), combining methodologies, simulations, and operational tools. International outreach was enhanced at World Water Week in Stockholm (SIWI), while internal robustness was strengthened through staff training on continuous improvement and problem-solving.

Finally, partnership diversification intensified through participation in AMCOW consultations (Abuja), sector diplomacy at the World Water Summit in Paris, a strategic partnership with GGGI on the climate–sanitation–finance nexus, the final phase of the GAPWAS project, outreach to Asia via the CUWA forum and MoUs, and Euro-African partnerships in Tenerife focused on innovation and bankability. Looking toward 2026, AfWASA aims to reach a decisive milestone by aligning financial sustainability, digital modernization, and increased value creation through the operationalization of the AWASA Academy, the economic consolidation of the Yaoundé Congress, and the optimization of member services and processes.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AfWASA	African Water and Sanitation Association
SDG 6	Sustainable Development Goal No. 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)
AMCOW	African Ministers' Council on Water
Agenda 2063	African Union's long-term strategic development framework
CIE	Congrès International et Exposition
DEx	Executive Director
IRC	International Resource Centre
NWSC	National Water and Sewerage Corporation (Uganda)
AfDB	African Development Bank
DBSA	Development Bank of Southern Africa
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
SYSCEBNL	Accounting System for Non-Profit Entities
SC	Strategic Council
STC	Strategic and Technical Council
AUDC	African Utility Data Collaborative
PAPs	Performance Improvement Plans
NRW	Non-Revenue Water
AfriCap 2	AfriCap Programme, Phase 2 (capacity building and performance improvement)
SOMAGEP	Malian Company for the Management of Drinking Water Assets
SEG	Guinea Water Company
REGIDESO	Water Distribution Authority (designation used by national utilities, e.g., DRC)
LCDE	La Congolaise des Eaux (Republic of Congo Water Utility)
STE	Chadian Water Company
EMPOWERWASH-AFRICA	WASH systems strengthening programme (Phase II referenced)
WASAC	Water and Sanitation Corporation (Rwanda)
ISI	Institutional Strengthening Index
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
GWP	German Water Partnership
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
SIWI	Stockholm International Water Institute
SAO-CWIS	Programme related to Citywide Inclusive Sanitation
CWIS	Citywide Inclusive Sanitation
DEWATS	Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
CUWA	China Urban Water Association
AHK	German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (network of German chambers abroad)
AFD	French Development Agency
GWOPA	Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance
WOPs	Water Operators' Partnerships
ONU-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
TdE	Togolese Water Company
GS	Group of specialists

Strengthening Governance



In an African context marked by growing structural challenges related to sustainable access to water and sanitation, the AfWASA continued, during the period under review, an extensive process of governance consolidation, modernization of its management tools, and strengthening of its institutional leadership. The actions undertaken reflect a clear commitment to enhancing the Association's credibility, representativeness, and operational effectiveness, in line with international governance standards for pan-African organizations.



Renewal of AfWASA's Steering Committee: A New Term in Service of Strengthened Governance

The renewal of the AfWASA Steering Committee for the 2025–2026 term represents a major milestone in the Association's governance dynamics. This strategic decision was officially endorsed during the joint sessions of the Steering Committee and the General Assembly, held on 15 February 2025 at the International Resource Centre (IRC) of the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) in Kampala, Uganda.

The new Steering Committee configuration brings together eighteen members from sixteen African countries, reflecting enhanced geographical and institutional diversity. This composition illustrates AfWASA's continued commitment to inclusive, balanced governance that is representative of the continent's diverse regional realities. It also ensures better consideration of national specificities, varied operational contexts, and sectoral priorities specific to African water and sanitation operators.

Beyond the renewal of governing bodies, this reconfiguration aims to inject renewed strategic momentum, grounded in complementary expertise, strengthened accountability, and closer alignment of governance decisions with the Association's strategic orientations particularly in relation to SDG 6, the African Union's Agenda 2063, and AMCOW priorities.

Contribution of AfWASA's Executive Directorate to the Success of the 22nd International Congress and Exhibition

The active mobilization of AfWASA's Executive Directorate (ED) during the 22nd International Congress and Exhibition constituted a major lever for visibility, influence, and stakeholder engagement. This

participation was structured around several strategic pillars, combining scientific facilitation, institutional engagement, and partnership development.

At the operational level, the Executive Directorate coordinated the registration of 157 participants, contributing significantly to continental mobilization around this flagship sector event. It also led the organization of six high-value paid sessions aimed at deepening discussions on financing, innovation, governance, and the resilience of water and sanitation services.

In addition, AfWASA provided substantial support to the organization of three major thematic forums dedicated to women, young professionals, and mayors, reflecting its commitment to inclusion, local leadership, and generational renewal. Sessions specifically dedicated to the African Development Bank (AfDB) were also programmed, reinforcing the visibility of the strategic partnership between the two institutions.

AfWASA's institutional presence was further strengthened through the installation of a 54 m² exhibition booth, designed as a space for dialogue, program promotion, and engagement with partners. This large-scale mobilization benefited from the financial support of leading strategic partners, including the AfDB, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the DBSA, the Islamic Development Bank, and USAID confirming renewed donor confidence in AfWASA's capacity to federate stakeholders and deliver impact at the continental level.

Accounting Compliance of AfWASA with the SYSCEBNL

As part of regional efforts to harmonize accounting standards applicable to non-profit organizations,

West African authorities introduced the Accounting System for Non-Profit Entities (SYSCEBNL). In full alignment with this regulatory evolution, AfWASA initiated the migration of its accounting system to ensure compliance of its 2024 financial statements with this new framework.

This transition was accompanied by a comprehensive update of the Association's financial and administrative management systems. The adjustments made aim to strengthen transaction traceability, improve the quality of financial information, and ensure enhanced transparency in the use of resources. This approach is fully consistent with AfWASA's commitment to international best practices in financial governance an essential condition for maintaining the confidence of technical and financial partners.

Towards a Renewed Strategic and Technological Council in Service of African Innovation



On 19 and 20 July 2025, AfWASA organized the official launch workshop of the Strategic Council (SC) at the Lilongwe Conference Centre (Malawi), ahead of the sessions of the Strategic and Technical Council (STC) held from 21 to 24 July. This workshop marked a structuring moment for redefining the Association's scientific and technological role.

Characterized by strong participation and high-level exchanges, the workshop laid the foundations for a renewed STC, intended to become a true engine for knowledge production, innovation, and solutions adapted to African realities. Three sub-committees attached to the SC were established, respectively dedicated to Specialist Groups, resource mobilization, and innovation.

Participants also clarified provisions related to mandates, updated the guidelines of the Specialist Groups, and harmonized the 2025–2026 action plans with AfWASA's strategic priorities. Particular attention

was given to enhancing the value of the AUDC, Xchange, and Knowledge Management digital platforms, designed as structuring tools for data, knowledge, and experience sharing.

The workshop also formally endorsed the explicit integration of support to water operators and the AWASA Academy into the STC strategy, while initiating the revision of the 2024–2028 Strategic Plan. These decisions reflect AfWASA's ambition to strengthen its technical governance and sustainably increase its impact on the development of the water and sanitation sector in Africa.

Strengthening the Strategic Partnership between AfWASA and the African Development Bank

On 17 September 2025, a high-level meeting was held at the headquarters of the African Development Bank between Mr. Olivier GOSSO, Executive Director of AfWASA, and Mr. Chirwa Johannes MTCHERA, Director of the Water and Sanitation Department at the AfDB, accompanied by their respective teams.

Discussions focused primarily on two strategic areas: the preparation of the 23rd AfWASA International Congress and Exhibition, and the development of a structuring collaboration project requiring AfDB financial support. This project aims to sustainably strengthen access to water and sanitation services in fifteen African countries over a three-year period, leveraging AfWASA's technical expertise and mobilization capacity.

Pending official responses from the AfDB, the discussions have already resulted in a principle agreement from the Bank to support AfWASA on these two major initiatives, thereby confirming the strength of the strategic partnership between the two institutions and their shared ambition to contribute to the achievement of SDG 6 in Africa.



Strengthening Member Engagement





In a context shaped by climate urgency, demographic growth, and increasing demands for public service performance, the AfWASA has embarked on a structured trajectory of institutional transformation. The years 2024 and the first half of 2025 confirm a significant shift, characterized by the strengthening of the member community, the expansion of strategic academic and technical partnerships, and the deployment of innovative digital tools. This evolution is built on three key pillars: sustained growth in membership, driven in particular by the mobilizing effect of major continental events such as the International Congress and Exhibition; the development of high-impact partnerships, illustrated by the collaboration with Delft University of Technology; and digital innovation, embodied in an exchange and collaboration platform designed as a catalyst for knowledge sharing and member services. Beyond numerical results, these advances reflect the ambition to build a more inclusive, connected, and influential Association, capable of sustainably strengthening governance in the water and sanitation sector across Africa.

Membership Status and Evolution of Membership

An analysis of the membership situation of the AfWASA highlights a particularly encouraging dynamic in registrations and memberships over recent years. This positive trend was strongly confirmed during the first half of 2025, when the number of registrations recorded nearly matched the total volume observed throughout the entire year 2024. This remarkable growth is largely attributable to the catalytic effect of major institutional events organized or supported by AfWASA, foremost among them the International Congress and Exhibition. As a true platform for continental mobilization, this flagship event generated a significant wave of engagement from both individual professionals and sector institutions. This underscores the central role of events in the Association's membership strategy not only as spaces for technical and strategic exchange, but also as structural levers for network growth. From a quantitative perspective, membership evolution since 2022 clearly illustrates this upward trajectory. The Association recorded 139 members in 2022. This number increased to 237 in 2023, including 98 new members, marking a first major acceleration. In 2024, total membership reached 284, including 47 new entrants. By the end of June 2025, AfWASA had already recorded 359 members, including 75

new ones, confirming sustained and durable growth. In 2025 alone, 122 new registrations were recorded. The composition of these memberships reveals a strong predominance of individual members, who account for 72.95% of registrations and 73.33% of effective memberships. Affiliated members represent 10.66% of new memberships. This distribution reflects AfWASA's growing attractiveness among sector professionals, while also highlighting the opportunity to further strengthen institutional membership in order to balance the member base and enhance the mobilization of operators and organizations.

Strategic Partnership With DELFT University of Technology

As part of its strategy to expand and consolidate its membership base, AfWASA is currently finalizing a strategic partnership with Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. This agreement is rooted in a long-term vision aimed at strengthening the Association's academic and scientific anchoring, while expanding its international network of highly qualified professionals. The envisaged partnership will enable the integration of approximately 600 Delft University alumni as individual AfWASA members over a three-year period, at a rate of 200 new members per year through 2027. This initiative represents a structural lever for rejuvenating, diversifying, and internationalizing the

Association's network, while promoting the circulation of knowledge, innovation, and best practices between Africa and leading global academic hubs. The official signing of this partnership is scheduled to take place during the 2025 International Congress and Exhibition in Kampala. This symbolic act will mark a key milestone in AfWASA's strategic development and further strengthen its community of professionals engaged in water, sanitation, technological innovation, and applied research.

Deployment of the Digital Exchange and Collaboration Platform

Digital transformation constitutes a central pillar of AfWASA's institutional strategy. In this regard, the implementation of the digital exchange and collaboration platform reached a major milestone by the end of 2024, with the full execution of all planned deliverables, achieving a 100% completion rate. This performance reflects the rigor of planning and the effectiveness of the operational governance framework put in place. Key milestones included subscription to the software in September, completion of content creation and structuring in November, and the launch of a pilot testing phase in December involving a representative panel of members and collaborators. This pilot phase, scheduled to conclude in February 2025, is followed by a recalibration process aimed at optimizing platform functionalities prior to the effective launch of training sessions for specialist groups and members. Within this dynamic, several structuring activities are ongoing or planned. Progressive training of different categories of members including partners, members of the Strategic and Technical Council (STC), specialist groups, country representatives, and steering committee members will continue through March 2025. The official launch of the platform is scheduled for February, in the form of a public demonstration during the Congress, in order to maximize visibility and adoption. In parallel, continuous actions are being carried out to promote the platform among members, affiliates, and partners, update the online directory of member companies, and animate virtual communities to stimulate exchanges and collective knowledge production. To date, the platform counts 287 active users, 87 companies registered in the directory, and

19 operational thematic communities, confirming its growing role as a unifying tool serving the network.

Member Expansion and Engagement: A Structured and Inclusive Strategy

The period 2023–2025 was marked by exceptional growth and the implementation of an ambitious strategy grounded in financial sustainability, innovation, and inclusion. Total membership increased from 139 to 425, representing a growth of 206% and demonstrating the effectiveness of the actions undertaken. This performance stems from a multi-channel recruitment strategy combining participation in physical events, targeted digital campaigns, and onboarding webinars. This integrated approach not only expanded the membership base at the continental level, but also strengthened member engagement and retention around AfWASA's values and objectives.

Role of Events and Institutional Visibility

Events organized by AfWASA particularly the Strategic and Technical Council (STC) meeting in Lilongwe played a decisive role in this momentum. The associated open day and exhibition generated positive financial returns, facilitated the recruitment of new members, and strengthened the Association's institutional visibility among decision-makers, partners, and the specialized public.

GENDER PROMOTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Finally, AfWASA consolidated its commitment to gender equality and social inclusion through the implementation of structured initiatives. The establishment of the Pan-African Network of Women Professionals in Water and Sanitation, the training of 100 women leaders, and the development of strategic partnerships with the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and WaterAid have contributed to increasing female representation and enhancing the visibility of women executives in the sector. These actions reflect AfWASA's determination to promote inclusive and equitable governance an essential condition for the sustainable transformation of the water and sanitation sector in Africa.

Capacity Building of Stakeholders





During the period under review, the African Water Association (AfWASA/AAEA) significantly intensified its capacity-building efforts targeting operators, local authorities, and institutional stakeholders across the continent. In an environment where progress toward SDG 6 remains closely linked to service performance, climate risk management, organizational robustness, and innovation, AfWASA strengthened its role as a pan-African reference platform combining field-based actions, technical support mechanisms, knowledge production, and the mobilization of strategic partnerships. The initiatives outlined below reflect an integrated approach focused on improving operational performance, developing leadership, enhancing resilience to shocks, strengthening local systems, and promoting scientific and technological excellence.

AfriCap 2: Strengthening the Operational Performance of African Water Utilities through NRW Reduction and Water Quality Management

The AfriCap 2 programme continued the implementation of fifteen Performance Improvement Plans (PIPs), structured around two critical challenges for African utilities: water quality and Non-Revenue Water (NRW). In many contexts, NRW continues to erode the financial sustainability of public utilities, while weaknesses in quality control undermine customer trust and public health security. AfriCap 2 therefore positioned itself as an operational transformation instrument, aimed at embedding measurable, replicable performance practices aligned with recognized standards. Six water utilities were specifically engaged on NRW-related initiatives: SOMAGEP (Mali), SEG (Guinea), REGIDESO (Democratic Republic of Congo), LCDE (Republic of Congo), South Sudan Water (South Sudan), and STE (Chad). Through these interventions, the programme strengthened the entire loss-reduction chain from leak detection to intervention management integrating technical, organizational, and governance

dimensions. This approach contributes to improved financial sustainability and enables performance gains to be reinvested in service expansion. In parallel, nine utility laboratories benefited from infrastructure upgrades and capacity-building actions, notably in Malawi, Niger, Kenya, Zambia, Togo, Nigeria (TAWASCO and FCT Abuja), and Ethiopia (WSWC). The objective was to professionalize water quality control systems and enhance utilities' capacity to ensure, document, and continuously improve compliance, in a context where contamination risks are increasing due to urban growth and climate change. From an implementation perspective, additional documentation including pro-forma invoices and bank details was collected from eight pilot projects covering NRW and laboratory components in Guinea, Congo, South Sudan, Chad, Malawi, Togo, Nigeria, and Ethiopia. A procurement committee was convened to award these pilot projects, demonstrating AfWASA's commitment to rigorous, traceable, and transparent management in line with donor requirements. The Y9S2 report covering April–September 2024 was submitted to USAID in January 2025, confirming compliance with reporting obligations and accountability standards.

Finally, peer-to-peer technical support particularly from GWCL and ONEA was provided to monitor the finalization of quality manuals for several utilities (TDE, CAMWATER, ONEAD, LWB, FCT Abuja, TAWASCO), reflecting a South–South cooperation approach and effective knowledge transfer among African operators. This dynamic strengthens a culture of continuous improvement based on shared standards, tools, and procedures.

EMPOWERWASH-Africa – Phase II: Strengthening Local WASH Systems through Institutional Capacity Building and Youth Leadership Development



In line with its commitment to strengthening local WASH systems, AfWASA accelerated the implementation of Phase II of the EMPOWERWASH-AFRICA programme. Consultancy contracts were signed with Cameroonian and Ethiopian experts to conduct country-level interventions, while a service contract with IRC Ghana supported implementation in Ghana. In addition, a partnership agreement with Water For People was finalized to support activities in Rwanda, Malawi, and Uganda. This multi-country and complementary partnership model illustrates AfWASA's approach: federating operational, academic, and institutional expertise to strengthen territorial capacities. The official Phase II launch workshop, held in Kigali from 29–30 January 2025, brought together 29 participants, including 11 mayors, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Infrastructure and WASAC. The strong presence of local authorities sent a clear signal: EMPOWERWASH goes beyond technical support to promote political ownership and budgetary anchoring of WASH services. A field visit to Rulindo District linked strategic discussions to operational realities, fostering ownership. Since July 2025, several structuring actions have been carried out. Institutional capacity and performance assessments were conducted in twelve rural municipalities across six countries (Rwanda, Malawi, Ghana, Ethiopia, Cameroon,

Uganda) using the Institutional Strengthening Index (ISI). Four critical areas were analyzed: planning and coordination; service delivery; monitoring, evaluation, and data use; and administration and finance. Municipalities assessed included Rulindo and Gicumbi (Rwanda), Douala V and Fokoué (Cameroon), Chikwawa and Chiradzulu (Malawi), Kamwenge and Luuka (Uganda), Adama and Bishoftu (Ethiopia), and Asutifi North and Tano North (Ghana). Based on the results, institutional strengthening plans were developed, validated with local authorities, and integrated into costed work plans. This integration marks a key sustainability milestone, translating recommendations into funded programmatic pathways and placing WASH performance at the core of local decision-making. In Cameroon, targeted support enabled the production and validation of two advocacy documents in Douala V and Fokoué, aimed at increasing local resource mobilization and the share of municipal budgets allocated to water. The programme also launched a fellowship scheme for young African professionals. Fifteen fellows from fifteen countries (ten men and five women) were selected to form the first cohort, addressing the strategic challenge of skills renewal and nurturing a new generation of leaders capable of steering technical, climate, and institutional transitions in the sector.

Strengthening Women's Leadership in the WASH Sector: AfWASA at the Heart of a More Equitable Pan-African Governance Framework

AfWASA further strengthened its gender strategy through the consolidation of the Pan-African Network of Women Professionals in Water and Sanitation. From 27–29 May 2025 in Grand-Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire), the Association held the second edition of its women's leadership training, bringing together 23 representatives from professional networks across 13 African countries. Three years after the first edition in Accra, this initiative forms part of a broader institutional transformation toward more equitable and representative governance, with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In her opening address, the Deputy Director General of ONEP emphasized a demanding vision of leadership participatory, rooted in listening, dialogue, and co-creation inviting participants to engage in introspection on their aspirations and pathways to impact. In a strong institutional message, the Executive Director of AfWASA underscored that gender equality is not symbolic but a matter of justice and a driver of performance. Designed as a training-of-trainers programme, the session equipped participants with skills in leadership, advocacy, mentoring, and personal development. Each participant is now expected to cascade these skills nationally, with the objective of training more than 200 women and young

professionals across the continent. This initiative contributes to shaping an Africa where women are not only beneficiaries of WASH services, but also actors and decision-makers in their governance.

Strengthening Water Resilience to Flood Risks: AfWASA and the German Water Partnership at the Forefront of Capacity Building in Africa

In response to intensifying hydrometeorological risks, AfWASA, in partnership with the German Water Partnership (GWP), co-organized two technical workshops focused on water supply resilience and health protection during floods. These events strengthened the positioning of AfWASA and GWP as capacity-building catalysts, delivering international methodologies adapted to African contexts. In Douala (Cameroon), the workshop held from 20–22 August 2025, in collaboration with the Municipality of Douala V, gathered more than 50 participants from municipalities, CAMWATER, decentralized state services, universities, and technical organizations. Facilitated by Professor Émile Temgoua and Dr-Ing. Manuel Krauss, sessions combined learning, field visits, and practical simulations in the Makepe II area. Participants were equipped with concrete tools checklists, emergency plans, and cooperation networks strengthening local coordination and response capacity. In Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), the workshop held on 25–26 August 2025 brought together around 30 participants from public institutions, local authorities, utilities, security forces, universities, and technical organizations. Discussions deepened risk understanding, shared emergency supply experiences, and enhanced multi-stakeholder coordination. Simulation exercises resulted in operational recommendations

to strengthen metropolitan resilience to crises.

AfWASA at World Water Week 2025: Amplifying the Voice of African Water Operators and Strengthening Global Partnerships

AfWASA participated in World Water Week 2025, organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) from 24–28 August 2025 under the theme “Water for Climate Action.” This participation provided a strategic platform to amplify the voice of African utilities in international debates and to promote the 23rd AfWASA International Congress and Exhibition, scheduled for 9–13 February 2026 in Yaoundé. The delegation engaged in multiple bilateral meetings to strengthen partnerships with institutions such as the AfDB, SANDEC, GWOPA, WaterAid, and Aquaya, while contributing to high-level sessions on climate, financing, and innovation. Participation in the unveiling ceremony of the South African pavilion, attended by Minister Pemmy Majodina, further enhanced AfWASA’s institutional visibility.



Strengthening Internal Excellence: AfWASA Invests in Continuous Improvement and Problem-Solving Skills



Recognizing that institutional excellence begins with internal robustness, AfWASA organized a training programme entitled “Problem-Solving Tools and Continuous Improvement” for its staff in Abidjan from 23–25 September 2025. Combining theory, practical exercises, and case studies, the training covered fundamentals, problem-solving tools, continuous improvement, and risk analysis. The objective was to equip teams with practical tools to better identify, analyze, and resolve daily challenges,

while embedding a culture of continuous improvement. Results were highly satisfactory: improved mastery of quality tools, strengthened competencies, and enhanced inter-departmental collaboration. Twenty-five staff members participated, including 36% women, in line with AfWASA’s gender commitments. In the medium term, the Association aims to systematically integrate these tools into project and programme management and performance monitoring.

CWIS – Benchmarking Visit to Durban: Strengthening Inter-City Cooperation for Inclusive and Resilient Urban Sanitation Systems

Under the Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) programme, AfWASA organized a benchmarking visit to Durban (South Africa) from 9–11 September 2025 in collaboration with the eThekweni Municipality. The objective was to strengthen experience sharing among African cities on best practices in sanitation, recycling, urban governance, and resilience. The visit was opened by the Acting Mayor of eThekweni in the presence of the Mayor of Anyama (Côte d’Ivoire), highlighting AfWASA-driven inter-city cooperation. Technical presentations covered wastewater management, non-sewered approaches, sludge valorization, applied research with the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and monitoring and evaluation systems. Field visits enabled participants to observe DEWATS systems, treatment plants, and solid waste management practices within a circular economy framework. The mission brought together delegations from four countries (Côte d’Ivoire, Nigeria, Kenya, Zambia),



each comprising four delegates and a consultant, alongside an AfWASA representative. This diversity fostered substantial experience sharing and the formulation of key lessons on governance, planning, and resilience of sanitation systems. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to continued regional collaboration to promote inclusive, sustainable, and innovative WASH services across Africa.

Diversification of Partnerships





During 2025, the AfWASA consolidated its partnership diversification strategy and strengthened its positioning as a leading pan-African actor in the governance, financing, and innovation of water and sanitation services. In a context marked by climate urgency, massive investment needs, and the growing requirement for stronger coordination among political, technical, and financial stakeholders, AfWASA increased its presence on major regional and international platforms while structuring high-impact strategic alliances.

This momentum is grounded in a coherent approach that bridges continental policy frameworks particularly those led by AMCOW and the African Union with the operational expertise of African utilities federated within AfWASA. The actions undertaken demonstrate a clear ambition to transform dialogue spaces into tangible levers for cooperation, financing, and skills transfer for the benefit of African populations

AfWASA at the Heart of the AMCOW Post-Vision 2025 Agenda: Strategic Contribution and Enhanced Regional Coordination in West Africa

As part of preparations for AMCOW's post-Vision 2025 agenda, AfWASA was invited to actively participate in the West Africa regional meeting held from 18 to 20 March 2025 in Abuja, Nigeria. This strategic meeting brought together more than 80 representatives from sector ministries, regional institutions, basin agencies, and technical and financial partners.

AfWASA's participation aimed to provide technical input to the co-development of future water and sanitation governance orientations in West Africa. As the continental platform of operators, AfWASA conveyed field perspectives, highlighting operational realities, implementation constraints, and service-improvement levers.

Alongside plenary sessions, high-level bilateral exchanges were held with the AMCOW Executive team. These discussions laid the groundwork for joint annual planning of major sector events at the continental level. In particular, AfWASA proposed strengthening coordination of calendars related

to the AfWASA International Congress, regional congresses, Strategic and Technical Council (STC) meetings, Africa Water Week, AfricaSan, and African Union sector gatherings aimed at boosting synergies, optimizing stakeholder mobilization, and maximizing impact toward SDG 6.



AfWASA at the 2025 World Water Summit: Positioning Africa at the Heart of Global Investment and International Cooperation

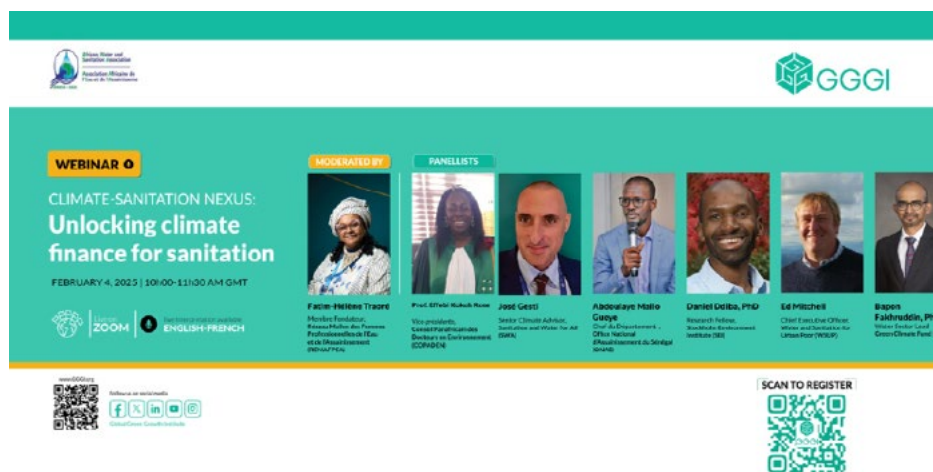


At the 2025 World Water Summit in Paris, AfWASA led by its acting President, Dr. Blaise Moussa, Director General of CAMWATER participated in high-level exchanges bringing together major global actors in water, finance, and innovation. Focused on investment and international cooperation, the Summit provided a strategic platform to position AfWASA as a key interlocutor on African priorities.

Discussions covered infrastructure financing, climate resilience, technological innovation, and sanitation project optimization. Through bilateral meetings with

partners such as SUEZ, the European Commission, and the Saudi Water Authority, AfWASA advocated for stronger cooperation on technology transfer, capacity building, and academic exchanges, notably through the AWASA Academy. These exchanges also supported preparations for African operators' participation in the Saudi summit on water innovation and desalination, while inviting international partners to attend the 23rd AfWASA Congress scheduled for February 2026 in Cameroon.

AfWASA–GGGI: A Strategic Partnership to Position Sanitation at the Core of Climate Action and Green Finance



Since October 2024, AfWASA and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) have structured a three-year strategic partnership focused on capacity building, knowledge

sharing, collaboration through expert groups, and experience exchange. Within this framework, a webinar co-organized on 4 February 2025 brought together

nearly 150 participants around the sanitation–climate change–finance nexus.

With contributions from leading organizations including COPADEN, SWA, ONAS, the Stockholm Environment Institute, WSUP, and the Green Climate Fund the webinar deepened the linkages between sanitation and climate action. It showcased existing African initiatives while analyzing opportunities and constraints for accessing climate finance. This event marked a key step toward positioning sanitation as a structuring pillar of national and international climate strategies.

GAPWAS à l'horizon 2025 : bilan des acquis et priorités stratégiques pour la phase finale du partenariat germano-africain

The German–African Partnership for Water and Sanitation (GAPWAS), resulting from the collaboration between AfWASA and the German Water Partnership (GWP), is scheduled to conclude in October 2025. A planning workshop held on 21 January 2025 reviewed progress made in 2024 and defined priorities for the final phase.

Key achievements included trainings on gender and benchmarking, improvements to digital tools, and strengthened member services. Priorities for 2025 include finalizing the website, intensifying membership actions, training staff and members, and ensuring strong project visibility during the AfWASA ICE 2025 Congress. The workshop also highlighted the need for an independent impact evaluation and renewed governance arrangements to sustain gains particularly through formalization of the “Ask the Experts” programme.



AfWASA at the China Urban Water Association Forum: Advancing Technological Cooperation and Innovation for African Water Utilities



Du 18 au 22 avril 2025, une délégation de l'AAEA conduite par son Directeur Exécutif a participé au From 18 to 22 April 2025, an AfWASA delegation led by the Executive Director participated in the China Urban Water Association (CUWA) Forum in Hangzhou, China. Supported by Laison Technology, this strategic mission showcased cutting-edge innovations in smart metering, network automation,

digital twins, and AI-based leak detection.

The signing of two Memoranda of Understanding with CUWA and Laison Technology laid the foundations for long-term cooperation focused on training, standardization, innovation, and technology transfer. This mission strengthens AfWASA's role as an innovation catalyst and opens practical avenues for adapting intelligent solutions to African contexts.

Mission de benchmarking à Tenerife : l'AAEA renforce les partenariats euro-africains pour l'innovation et le financement des services d'eau et d'assainissement



From 6 to 10 May 2025, a delegation of around forty senior leaders from AfWASA conducted a benchmarking mission in Tenerife (Canary Islands, Spain). This mission fell under a strategic partnership signed in November 2024 between AfWASA and Welysis, a company specializing in modular water treatment solutions, and followed commitments made at the IWA Congress held in Kigali in December 2023.

The delegation was led by Dr. Blaise Moussa (AfWASA President and DG CAMWATER), alongside Mr. Abdoul Niang (AfWASA Vice-President for West Africa and DG SONES, Senegal) and Mr. Mahamat Ahmat Adom (AfWASA Vice-President for Central Africa and DG STE, Chad). Also present were Mr. Sourabie Idrissa (DG ONEA, Burkina Faso), Ms. Diarra Sow (DG OLAC), and Ms. Cissé Nabitou (Deputy DG, ONEP Côte d'Ivoire).

High-level political authorities also participated, including:

- Mr. Bouaké Fofana, Minister of Hydraulics, Sanitation and Hygiene, Côte d'Ivoire;
- Mr. Passalé Kanabé Marcelin, Minister of Water and Energy, Chad;

- Mr. Boubacar Diané, Minister of Energy and Water, Mali;
- H.E. Abdrahamane Baby, Ambassador of Mali to Spain.

The programme combined industrial visits (Welysis plant, Arona EDAR wastewater treatment plant, Emmasa desalination facility), technical workshops, institutional meetings, and high-level conferences. Participants explored European innovations in sodium hypochlorite production, sustainable desalination, wastewater reuse, and digital water system management.

A strategic session on financing African projects from Europe featuring CaixaBank, Bankinter, and representatives of the Cabildo de Tenerife helped clarify eligibility criteria, existing instruments, and bankability conditions for sector infrastructure. Supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, this mission represents a decisive step in structuring Euro-African partnerships aligned with the African Water Vision 2025, toward equitable access to safe water and sustainable sanitation services across the continent.

AfWASA at the 2025 World Water Summit: Strengthening African Influence and Forging Strategic Partnerships for Investment and Innovation

As part of efforts to strengthen regional water governance mechanisms, AfWASA participated in the 1st Extraordinary Session of the sub-regional IWRM Council held in Dakar on 10–11 July 2025. Organized by the ECOWAS Water Resources Management Centre (CGRE), the session aimed to relaunch the Regional Council for Coordination and Reflection on Water (CRCRE), a key body bringing together major stakeholders in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in West Africa. Through its participation, AfWASA reaffirmed its commitment to participatory, inclusive, and sustainable water resource governance.

It amplified the voice of sector operators and contributed actively and constructively to strategic discussions, marking progress toward stronger and more coherent regional coordination.

Strengthening the Climate–Sanitation Nexus in Africa: AfWASA and GGGI Mobilize a New Generation of Regional Experts



On 24 June 2025 in Grand-Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire), a regional training session dedicated to the climate–sanitation nexus brought together around thirty experts and trainers from ten African countries.

Co-organized by AfWASA and GGGI, the initiative aims to build a continental pool of expertise capable of designing and deploying climate-smart solutions for sustainable sanitation. The session opened with the participation of Côte d'Ivoire's Minister of Hydraulics, Mr. Fofana Bouaké,

who highlighted the vital importance of the initiative for West Africa and Côte d'Ivoire's progress in climate legislation and financing. AfWASA's Executive Director, Mr. François Olivier Gosso, called for structuring a pan-African network of trainers for resilient and inclusive sanitation. GGGI's representative, Ms. Katerina Syngellakis, emphasized the need to align sanitation strategies with climate priorities. Supported by the Gates Foundation, the session contributes to regional mobilization in response to climate urgency.

Strengthening Ivorian–German Cooperation in the Water Sector: A Strategic Mission for Sustainable Partnerships and Innovation



In the context of a business mission to promote sustainable partnerships between Germany and Côte d'Ivoire in water and wastewater management, a delegation of German companies visited Abidjan from 16 to 20 June 2025. The mission included briefings on Côte d'Ivoire's economic and political context, high-level institutional meetings, and targeted technical and industrial visits. A key highlight was the 17 June conference on Ivorian–German cooperation opportunities, featuring company presentations, a panel on financing mechanisms in the water sector, and extensive networking.

A working meeting the same day reviewed progress on the ongoing project, planned activities through 31 October 2025 (project end date), and discussed post-project perspectives linked to the Yaoundé Congress, IFAT Munich, and the “Water Security in Africa” initiative. The meeting also considered co-financing options for the AADB project related to establishing a database on African operators.

AfWASA at the Launch of the GSGS Regional Hub: Strengthening Academic Training and Advocacy for Inclusive Sanitation in Africa



As part of its capacity-building and advocacy mandate for inclusive sanitation, AfWASA participated in the official launch of the Global Sanitation Graduate School (GSGS WCIOA) Regional Hub and the curriculum review workshop, held from 21 to 25 July 2025 at the 2iE Institute in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso). The event gathered academic and institutional stakeholders from West, Central, and Indian Ocean Africa.

AfWASA presented its work and contributed to the collaborative revision of training modules, leading to the integration of new strategic topics such as circular economy, hygiene and safety in sanitation, and climate change reinforcing AfWASA's visibility as a key technical and strategic actor in sanitation improvement in Africa.

Closing of the ISC-Hub Program: AfWASA Celebrates Three Years of Impact in Advancing Inclusive Urban Sanitation in Africa

AfWASA participated in the regional closing ceremony of the Inclusive Sanitation Capacity Hub (ISC-Hub) programme, held on 31 July 2025 at the Palm Club Hotel in Abidjan. The event marked the conclusion of a three-year programme (2022–2025) focused on strengthening capacities for inclusive urban sanitation. The ceremony brought together high-level representatives, including the Chief of Staff's office of the Ministry of Sanitation and Hygiene (MINHAS),

a representative of the AfDB, the Deputy Director General of the Swiss Centre for Scientific Research (CSRS), a representative of the President of Félix Houphouët-Boigny University, and the Mayor of Anyama. The programme included a presentation of achievements, testimonies from beneficiaries, and constructive discussions on lessons learned and future prospects for sanitation in Africa.

MERU University and AfWASA Join Forces to Develop the Next Generation of African Water and Sanitation Leaders



On 8 August 2025, Meru University of Science and Technology (Kenya) and AfWASA signed an agreement to launch an innovative programme aimed at strengthening students' competencies in water and sanitation. Under this partnership, AfWASA membership fees will be covered for one year for Meru students, granting privileged access to a wide network of experts and resources. Beneficiaries will participate in Specialist Groups and the Members' Xchange and Knowledge Management platforms, and will access research grants and specialized training.

The programme also supports student empowerment through dedicated professional networks. This collaboration reflects the shared commitment of Meru University and AfWASA to train a new generation of African leaders who will drive innovation and inclusion for a sustainable future of the water and sanitation sector.

Signing of Memoranda of Understanding between AfWASA, WASTE and APAA: A Pan-African Alliance to Accelerate Sustainable Access to Water and Sanitation

Le premier mémorandum d'entente a été conclu entre Two Memoranda of Understanding were concluded: the first between AfWASA and the international organization WASTE, and the second between WASTE and the Pan-African Association of Sanitation Actors (APAA).

The official ceremony was chaired by AfWASA's Executive Director, the APAA President, and WASTE's Programme Director.

These agreements reflect the shared commitment to strengthen synergies, encourage innovation, and accelerate action toward universal access to water and sanitation. The partnerships aim to promote inclusive public policies, support the implementation of appropriate technical and financial solutions, and stimulate public-private partnerships for sustainable services strengthening resilience to climate and demographic challenges while building local capacities.



AfWASA at the 6th Global WOPs Congress: African Leadership, International Cooperation, and Advancing Inclusion

AfWASA participated in the 6th Global WOPs Congress organized by UN-Habitat and GWOPA from 27 to 30 October 2025 in Bonn, Germany. As a member of the Steering Committee, AfWASA took part in the strategic meeting held on 26 October, chaired by UN-Habitat's Executive Director. AfWASA also co-facilitated two major sessions one with the GAPWAS programme and another with the Stronger Together Coalition focused on gender promotion and the recognition of women professionals in the sector. Two additional technical sessions were delivered under the African Utility Data Collaborative (AUDC), in partnership with AgroParisTech, IWA, Ghana Water, and AfWASA, to strengthen data governance and management. On the sidelines, bilateral meetings facilitated by GWOPA particularly with AFD and other organizations—explored new financing opportunities for African sector programmes. This participation underscores AfWASA's driving role in international cooperation and its continued commitment to an inclusive, innovative, and sustainable water sector in Africa.

AfWASA at the Luanda Summit: Advancing Innovative Models for Sustainable Financing of Water and Sanitation Services in Africa



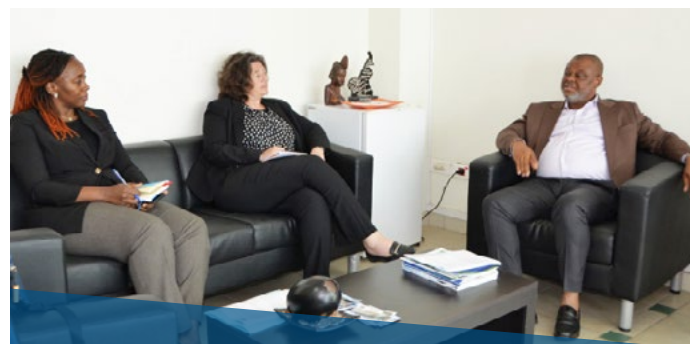
AfWASA actively participated in the Luanda Summit on financing infrastructure development in Africa, held from 28 to 31 October 2025 in Luanda under the high patronage of the President of Angola and organized by AUDA-NEPAD and the African Union Commission.

AfWASA made a significant contribution to the high-level session titled: “Building financially resilient

water and sanitation utilities: innovative models for sustainable service delivery in Africa.” The Association presented its continental vision on the economic viability of utilities and the governance and sustainable financing approaches promoted by its members. On the sidelines, AfWASA strengthened dialogue with key partners, particularly the AfDB, the World Bank, and AUDA-NEPAD, to expand investment opportunities in the sector.

With over 2,000 participants, the Summit highlighted the need for stronger cooperation among states, investors, and public operators to accelerate Africa's infrastructure transformation in line with Agenda 2063. AfWASA's contribution was recognized as a benchmark in financial innovation and sector leadership.

Revitalizing the AfWASA–AHK Partnership: Strengthening German–African Cooperation in the Water and Sanitation Sector



On 22 October 2025, AfWASA and the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AHK) held a strategic working session to relaunch and consolidate their cooperation. This renewed dynamic aims to further professionalize exchanges and promote joint participation in major international events, including the 23rd AfWASA International Congress (February 2026, Yaoundé, Cameroon) and the IFAT trade fair (May 2026, Munich, Germany). Both institutions seek to strengthen synergies between African and German water and sanitation operators and to support the development of sustainable, innovative, and mutually beneficial cooperation models. AfWASA and AHK reaffirmed their shared commitment to fostering German–African cooperation that delivers practical solutions to sustainable development challenges in the water and sanitation sector.

Consolidating Continental Leadership and Enhancing AfWASA's International Visibility through Major Events



22nd AfWASA International Congress and Exhibition in Kampala: A Major Pan-African Platform for Water and Sanitation in Africa



The 22nd International Congress and Exhibition of the AfWASA, held in Kampala from 16 to 20 February 2025, represented one of the most significant milestones for the water and sanitation sector in Africa. Organized under the unifying theme “Water and Sanitation for All: A Secure Future for Africa,” this major continental and international event brought together 2,268 participants from 67 countries, reflecting AfWASA's growing attractiveness and the recognition of its role as a leading pan-African platform. Hosted by Uganda's National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), the Congress gathered a remarkably diverse range of stakeholders, including public and private utility executives, policymakers, researchers, technical experts, financial partners, civil society representatives, and innovative companies. This diversity fostered inclusive, cross-sector dialogue essential to addressing the complex and interlinked challenges facing the sector. The scientific and technical programme stood out

for its depth and quality, featuring 58 technical sessions, 300 oral presentations, 30 scientific posters, and several high-level forums, including the CEOs' Forum, Young Professionals' Forum, Women Leaders' Forum, Mayors' Forum, and a ministerial session dedicated to policy orientations. A pioneering intergenerational dialogue created a constructive space for exchange between young talents and seasoned experts, illustrating AfWASA's commitment to skills renewal and knowledge transfer. In parallel, the international exhibition hosted 236 exhibitors from 40 countries, showcasing innovative technologies, efficient management models, and sustainable approaches tailored to African contexts. The Congress culminated in a set of strategic recommendations, particularly on climate resilience, integrated water resources management, watershed restoration, and transboundary cooperation, calling for the systematic integration of climate considerations into the design and operation of water infrastructure.

22nd AfWASA International Congress and Exhibition: A Landmark Pan-African Mobilization for Sustainable Water and Sanitation in Africa

Building on this momentum, AfWASA officially launched the 23rd International Congress and Exhibition on 30 July 2025. The event is scheduled to take place from 9 to 13 February 2026 at the Yaoundé Conference Centre in Cameroon. Under the theme “Water and Sanitation for All: Bold Actions for Africa,” the Congress is expected to be one of the largest African gatherings in the sector, with more than 2,000 participants anticipated. The launch ceremony, held in the presence of high-level national and local authorities, featured remarks by the Mayor of Yaoundé, Mr. Luc Messi Atangana, who highlighted the support of the President of the Republic, H.E. Paul Biya, describing the Congress as a “historic opportunity” for Cameroon and for Africa.

AfWASA President Dr. Blaise Moussa, also Director General of CAMWATER, emphasized the strategic role of the Congress as a catalyst for concrete action toward achieving SDG 6, announcing a rich programme of high-level sessions, thematic forums, and an international exhibition. AfWASA’s Executive Director, Mr. Olivier Gosso, reiterated the Association’s core mission: to transform political and financial commitments into measurable results on the ground, ensuring the universal right to water and sanitation. Finally, Cameroon’s Minister of Water and Energy, Mr. Gaston Éloundou Essomba, reaffirmed the country’s commitment to making the Congress a lever for sustainable transformation across the continent.



96th STC Session in Yaoundé: A Strategic Milestone to Accelerate the Sustainable Transformation of Africa's Water and Sanitation Sector



The 96th STC session, held from 17 to 19 November 2025 in Yaoundé, emerged as a key moment for strategic reflection within Africa's water and sanitation sector. Organized in partnership with CAMWATER and Cameroon's Ministry of Water and Energy, the session brought together more than 230 participants from 15 countries. Focused on sustainable water resources management and service strengthening, the meeting highlighted persistent structural challenges, including increasing climate pressure, institutional fragility, financing gaps,

and critical capacity-building needs. Thematic panels on innovation, financing, sanitation, water quality, and skills development underscored the urgency of integrated approaches adapted to African realities. The Yaoundé STC also played a decisive role in preparing the 23rd International Congress and Exhibition, formulating operational recommendations aimed at accelerating progress toward SDG 6. The session reaffirmed the centrality of collective action, practical innovation, and human capital in driving sustainable sector transformation.

AfWASA at the IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition 2025: Strengthening Global Visibility and Advancing African Priorities

Finally, AfWASA's participation in the International Water Association (IWA) Water and Development Congress & Exhibition 2025, held in Bangkok from 8 to 12 December 2025, provided a major strategic opportunity to strengthen its international outreach. Organized under the theme "Water, Sanitation and Innovation: Pathways to Progress and a Resilient Future," the event offered a prime platform to promote African priorities on the global stage. AfWASA's Executive Director took part in several high-level technical sessions and conducted targeted B2B meetings with institutional, technical, and financial partners. These engagements helped

identify cooperation opportunities, capture innovative solutions transferable to Africa, and further consolidate AfWASA's positioning as a key actor in the sustainable transformation of water and sanitation services. Alongside these activities, AfWASA actively promoted the 23rd International Congress and Exhibition in Yaoundé in 2026, strengthening international partner interest and positioning the event as an unmissable continental forum for policy dialogue, innovation, knowledge sharing, and investment mobilization in support of universal and sustainable access to water and sanitation in Africa.

By 2026, the African Water Association (AfWASA/AAEA) aims to take a decisive step in consolidating its institutional model by aligning strategic ambition, operational modernization, and financial sustainability. This trajectory will be driven by the strengthening of key structural instruments, the optimization of internal processes, and the development of high value-added, revenue-generating activities for members and partners. A major priority will be the operationalization of the African Water and Sanitation Academy (AWASA), designed as a pan-African center of excellence for training, certification, and knowledge sharing. In 2026, the Academy will roll out hybrid certification pathways (blended in-person and digital), executive programmes for senior leaders, and specialized courses in governance, innovation, climate resilience, and service performance. These offerings will serve as a core driver of sustainable revenue generation while significantly enhancing the impact of Africa's human capital. In parallel, AfWASA will continue to finalize preparations for the 23rd International Congress and Exhibition, scheduled for 9–13 February 2026 in Yaoundé. Beyond its scientific and policy dimensions,

this flagship event will be strengthened as an economic platform integrating premium sessions, innovation hubs, commercial partnerships, and digital solutions, with the aim of increasing financial returns and attractiveness for exhibitors and sponsors. Looking ahead, AfWASA will also launch calls for applications to host the 24th International Congress and Exhibition (CIE 2028), as well as upcoming editions of the Strategic and Technical Council (STC), including the 97th, 98th, 99th, and 100th sessions planned for 2026–2027. These processes will enhance transparency, long-term planning, and regional ownership of the Association's activities. Finally, 2026 will mark an acceleration of AfWASA's digital transformation, through process automation, digitalization of member services, strategic use of data, and the deployment of collaborative platforms. This modernization will optimize costs, improve service quality, and strengthen value creation across all operations and programmes, positioning AfWASA as an innovative, high-performing, and financially resilient pan-African organization.





Headquarter : Riviera Palmeraie - Rond point, Place de la Renaissance Immeuble SODECI, 2ème étage
25 BP 1174 Abidjan 25 Côte d'Ivoire | (+225) 27 22 49 96 11 | (+225) 07 98 37 77 93
Contact@afwasa.org | www.afwasa.org