



ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT



2024

Ing. OLIVIER GOSSO
AfWASA Executive Director

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Words from the Executive Director



Ing. OLIVIER GOSSO

AfWASA Executive Director

Although institutional constraints and circumstantial challenges led us to the difficult decision to cancel the 21st International Congress and Exhibition initially scheduled to take place in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, this moment was also an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to rigorous, inclusive, and high-impact organization.

In this spirit, we launched a participatory process to develop our new 2024–2028 Strategic Plan, which will serve as the foundation of our actions in the years to come. This ambitious roadmap is rooted in African realities and firmly oriented toward innovation, sustainability, and capacity development. It reflects a clear vision: to establish AfWASA as a globally recognized organization, serving its members and the populations of the African continent.

At the same time, AfWASA accelerated preparations for its 22nd International Congress and Exhibition, to be held in Kampala, Uganda, from 16 to 20 February 2025. This flagship continental event is already shaping up to be a strategic platform for dialogue, experience-sharing, and strengthening partnerships.

The year 2024 also marked a major institutional turning point with the transformation of the Scientific and Technical Council into the Strategic and Technological Council (STC). This evolution reflects our determination to better align technical expertise, innovation, and strategic vision, in order to respond more effectively to the sector's complex challenges.

Aligned with this momentum, we have continued our efforts to enhance AfWASA's appeal to both its members and its partners. We have undertaken targeted initiatives to increase our international visibility, diversify our partnerships, and consolidate our position as a key pan-African actor in high-level forums. Finally, aware of the imperative of organizational sustainability, we have initiated the development of new revenue-generating activities aligned with our mission, while safeguarding the continuity of services provided to our members.

This annual report reflects the vitality of our association, the resilience of our teams, and the ever-renewed trust of our partners. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to each of you members, collaborators, and sister institutions for your unwavering commitment to advancing our noble cause.

Together, let us continue building an Africa where universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation is no longer a goal, but a reality.

1. Abbreviations

AfriCap: African Water and Sanitation Capacity Building Programme

AfWASA: African Water and Sanitation Association

AGTIWAS: African-German Training Initiative for Water and Sanitation

AMCOW: African Ministers' Council on Water

AWASA: African Water and Sanitation Academy

BCEAO: Central Bank of West African States

CWIS: Citywide Inclusive Sanitation

DBSA: Development Bank of Southern Africa

EMPOWERWASH-Africa: Empowered WASH Systems at District-level in Africa

ESAWAS: Eastern and Southern Africa Water and Sanitation Regulators Association

GAPWAS: German-African Partnership for Water and Sanitation

GGGI: Global Green Growth Institute

GIZ: German Agency for International Cooperation for Development

GWOPA: Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance

ISO 9001 2015: International Quality Management Standard

IWA: International Water Association

NRW: Non-Revenue Water

NWSC: National Water and Sewerage Corporation (Uganda)

ONEA: National Office for Water and Sanitation (Burkina Faso)

ONAS: National Sanitation Office of Senegal

PASA: Pan-African Association of Sanitation Actors

PASAOS: Support Programme for the Structuring of Sanitation Actors in Africa

PIDA: Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa

SDG 6: Sustainable Development Goal 6

SIWI: Stockholm International Water Institute

SODECI: Water Distribution Company of Côte d'Ivoire

STC: Strategic and Technological Council

SWA: Sanitation and Water for All

SYSCEBNL: Accounting System for Not-for-Profit Entities

WASH: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



2

Summary of Activities





Although the institutional context and prevailing circumstances forced us to cancel the 21st International Congress and Exhibition, initially scheduled to take place in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, this difficult decision provided a valuable opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to a rigorous, inclusive, and high-impact organizational approach. In this spirit, we launched a participatory process to develop the new 2024–2028 Strategic Plan, which now serves as the foundation for our action in the years to come. This structuring document is both ambitious and deeply rooted in African realities, with a strong focus on innovation, sustainability, and capacity building. It carries a clear vision: to make AfWASA a global reference organization, fully dedicated to serving its members and the populations of the African continent.

At the same time, AfWASA has accelerated preparations for its 22nd International Congress, which will be held in Kampala, Uganda, from 16 to 20 February 2025. This major continental event is already shaping up to be a strategic platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and partnership strengthening. The year 2024 also marked a major institutional turning point with the transformation of the Scientific and Technical Council into the STC. This evolution reflects our determination to better align technical expertise, innovation, and strategic vision, in order to more effectively respond to the complex challenges of the sector. In line with this dynamic, we continued our efforts to strengthen AfWASA's attractiveness, both among its members and with its partners. We undertook targeted actions to increase our

international visibility, diversify our partnerships, and consolidate our position as a key pan-African stakeholder in high-level forums. Lastly, recognizing the imperative of organizational sustainability, we began developing new income-generating activities aligned with our mission, while ensuring the continuity and quality of services to our members. This annual report reflects the vitality of our Association, the resilience of our teams, and the unwavering trust of our partners. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you members, collaborators, and sister institutions for your continued commitment to advancing our noble cause. Together, let us pursue the construction of an Africa where universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation is no longer a goal, but a tangible reality.



3

Governance



3.1 Appointment of a New Executive Director



Since January 1st, 2024, AfWASA has entered a new phase of leadership with the appointment of Mr. François Olivier GOSSO, a widely recognized expert known for his dedication and strategic vision in the African water sector. Succeeding Mr. Sylvain Usher, who left a lasting legacy after over two decades at the helm of the Association, this transition marks a broader institutional effort towards modernization and strengthening of governance structures.

An electromechanical engineer with more than 25 years of experience particularly within SODECI and as former Chair of the STC, Mr. GOSSO brings an in-depth understanding of both the operational and strategic challenges of the sector. His career, shaped by technical and leadership responsibilities, positions him as a key player in addressing the growing challenges of access to safe drinking water and sanitation across the continent.

3.2 Conakry Congress

In response to an official request from the Government of the Republic of Guinea to postpone the organization of the 21st AfWASA International Congress and Exhibition, an extraordinary meeting of the Executive Committee was held via videoconference on

January 9th, 2024. This meeting brought together the statutory members of the Committee to carefully examine the implications of this request and to evaluate the various alternatives in a spirit of shared responsibility.

To gather concrete insights and better assess the situation on the ground, an official fact-finding mission, led by the Executive Director of AfWASA, was conducted in Conakry from January 23 to 25, 2024. This high-level mission enabled engagement with Guinean authorities, technical partners, and members of the local organizing committee. It took place in a context marked by significant logistical, institutional, and contextual challenges.

In view of these considerations, and in order to uphold the reputation for excellence and organizational rigor that characterizes AfWASA's congresses, the Executive Committee unanimously decided to cancel the 21st Congress in Guinea on the grounds of force majeure. Though difficult, this decision reflects the Association's resilience and its capacity to prioritize the collective interest of its members and partners. It also reaffirms AfWASA's unwavering commitment to maintaining the high standards that define the quality of its events, while opening the door to future discussions on alternative hosting arrangements. In doing so, AfWASA reaffirms its intent to continue dialogue with Guinean authorities and to support the country's efforts to strengthen its regional standing in the water and sanitation sector.

3.3. Renewal of AfWASA's Governance Bodies

In accordance with the resolutions adopted during the Executive Committee meeting held on August 1st, 2024, in Lomé, Togo, calls for applications were launched for the renewal of key governance positions: 15 active members of the Executive Committee (October 14, 2024), the Chair of the Strategic Council (August 20, 2024), and 2 representatives of affiliate members (October 18, 2024).

The validation of the 18 new members of the Executive Committee for the 2025–2026 mandate has been postponed to the Executive Committee meeting scheduled for February 15, 2025.

3.4. Pan-African Association of Sanitation Actors (PASA)

From September 18 to 28, 2024, PASA held a planning workshop in Yaoundé, aimed at optimizing the implementation of the Association's strategy. This workshop fostered enhanced governance, clarified the roles of various stakeholders, and facilitated the development of regional strategies accompanied by work plans and budgets.

As a result of the sessions, regional coordinators received training, a working group was established, and an Executive Committee



was set up to oversee PASA's governance. The Association continued its efforts to build the capacity of sanitation actors through technical trainings and specialized workshops. Concurrently, it intensified its advocacy activities to promote greater inclusion of sanitation professionals in national public policies.

Proactive initiatives to establish strategic partnerships were also launched. The Association conducted several awareness campaigns on hygiene and best sanitation practices, utilizing digital communication tools and visual media to reach a wider audience. In addition, innovative pilot projects particularly in the area of faecal sludge management were implemented.

All of these initiatives aim to improve the working conditions of sector operators while promoting inclusive, sustainable, and locally adapted sanitation services.

3.5. African Water and Sanitation Academy (AWASA)

The signing, on September 17, 2024, of a partnership agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uganda and AfWASA marks a major milestone in the consolidation of the African Water Academy, officially designating Uganda as the host country of this pan-African institution.

This strategic partnership is part of an ambitious continental effort to strengthen capacities in the vital sectors of water and sanitation, through an inclusive, sustainable, and excellence-driven approach.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Uganda's Minister of Foreign Affairs, General Abubakar Jeje Odongo, and the President of AfWASA, Dr. Silver Mugisha. It reflects a shared commitment to addressing the structural challenges of the sector by laying the necessary administrative, institutional, and technical foundations for the operationalization of the Academy.

The NWSC and the Executive Directorate of AfWASA have initiated preparatory work for the official inauguration of the Academy, scheduled for February 2025, during the 22nd AfWASA International Congress and Exhibition. Efforts to mobilize technical and financial partners have been launched in parallel with the development of the Academy's foundational academic program, designed in alignment with the expressed needs of operators, public decision-makers, and community stakeholders across Africa.

With a firmly established continental vocation, the African Water Academy aspires to become a strategic pillar in the professionalization of water and sanitation services, the advancement of applied research, and the continuous improvement of service quality for African populations.

3.6. 2024 Executive Directorate Review Workshop – AfWASA

The 2024 Review Workshop of AfWASA was held on January 24–25, 2025, at the Golden Hotel in Grand-Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire, within a spirit of strategic renewal and institutional reorganization. This high-level meeting brought together around forty participants, including 30% women, reflecting the Association's commitment to inclusivity and marking a decisive step in its ongoing transformation, fully aligned with the orientations of the new 2024–2028 Strategic Plan. The main objective of the workshop was twofold: first, to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the activities carried out in 2024, highlighting achievements, lessons learned, and remaining challenges; second, to define the operational priorities for 2025, firmly rooted in a results-based approach. In this regard, concrete commitments

were made and a structured monitoring and evaluation framework was proposed to ensure accountability and performance.

This platform for exchange also provided an opportunity to highlight the value of newly deployed digital tools and collaborative platforms, including the new institutional website, the “Xchange” member interface, and the knowledge management systems. Each Directorate presented its 2025 roadmap, structured around the strategic pillars of the 2024–2028 Plan, thereby reinforcing a shared vision to firmly position AfWASA as a key and influential actor in the water and sanitation sector across the African continent.

3.7. Strengthening of AfWASA’s Quality Management System

As part of its commitment to organizational excellence and the satisfaction of its members and partners, AfWASA has taken a decisive step toward establishing a quality management system aligned with the ISO 9001:2015 standard. To this end, five specialized training sessions were delivered to all staff members, enhancing internal capacities on the standard’s core principles, including the process approach, document control, and risk analysis and management—foundational pillars for strengthening team competencies.

In parallel, AfWASA initiated the development of its documentation system through a participatory approach involving all directorates. This phase included:

- A thorough analysis of the Association’s internal and external environment;
- The mapping of core and support processes;
- The identification of key strategic issues;

- The drafting and adoption of a quality policy aligned with the 2024–2028 Strategic Plan;
- The development of a stakeholder matrix identifying key needs and expectations.

This initiative reflects AfWASA’s clear determination to foster a true internal quality culture through awareness-raising actions, collaborative workshops, and increased staff engagement in identifying continuous improvement areas. These efforts illustrate a progressive yet structured transformation of the organization, resolutely focused on performance, transparency, and stakeholder satisfaction.

3.8. Migration to the SYSCEBNL and Accounting Compliance

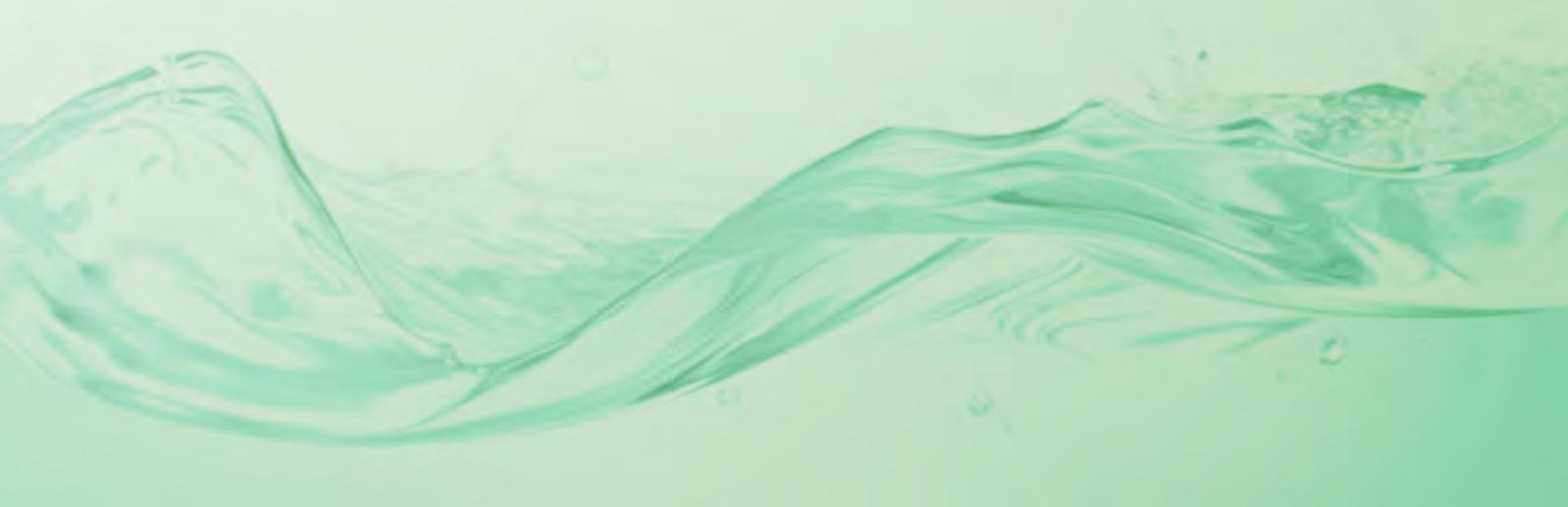
As part of the regional commitment to harmonize accounting standards applicable to non-profit organizations within the WAEMU area, West African authorities have established a new accounting framework, which is now in effect. In line with this momentum toward financial integration and good governance, AfWASA has initiated a migration process toward the SYSCEBNL Clearing and Settlement System, managed by the BCEAO (Central Bank of West African States).

This transition has been accompanied by a modernization of the accounting system and a comprehensive review of the Association’s financial management framework. These developments aim to ensure compliance with the new regulatory requirements, strengthen the traceability of operations, and enhance transparency in the management of resources, in accordance with international standards of accountability and financial performance.



4

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT, SERVICES AND PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS



4.1 Engagement des membres



In 2024, AfWASA experienced exceptional growth, with a 94% increase in membership rising from 139 members in 2022 to 284. This remarkable performance reflects the Association's growing appeal and its increasingly pivotal role in structuring the development of the water and sanitation sector in Africa.

At the same time, significant progress was achieved in promoting gender inclusion and supporting young professionals. AfWASA also intensified its diplomatic outreach through strategic visits to major stakeholders, such as the Minister of Water and Sanitation of Senegal, the future President of AMCOW and the African Development Bank.

An ambitious partnership is currently being finalized with Delft University, aiming for the gradual integration of 600 alumni by 2027. This initiative will further consolidate AfWASA's integration into global knowledge networks and reinforce its pan-African mission.

4.2 professional Networks

Implementation of the Gender Strategy

AfWASA reached major milestones in operationalizing its Gender Strategy, which has now been validated by stakeholders and is slated for official adoption at the upcoming Kampala Congress. Dedicated structures including gender focal points and committees have been established within member organizations such as ONEB (Senegal) and Lusaka Water (Zambia). Two women's networks in Nigeria and Togo

have begun the process of legal registration, with AfWASA's support. Three projects funded by AfriCap (in Cameroon, Kenya, and Benin) were successfully implemented, and a new CWIS project call is forthcoming. The Terms of Reference for the Gender Taskforce are currently under review, alongside a relaunch webinar in preparation.

AfWASA has strengthened its international presence through partnerships with IWA, GIZ, AMCOW, and GWOPA. A Women's Forum and a networking event are being organized for the 2025 Congress. These advancements confirm AfWASA's commitment to inclusive governance and its strong orientation toward achieving gender equality in the WASH sector.

Implementation of the Young Professionals Strategy

AfWASA has continued with determination to implement its dedicated strategy for young professionals in the WASH sector. Through effective resource mobilization, 30 young researchers benefited from programs such as AfriCap, SAO CWIS, and EMPOWER WASH.

The Association finalized the second bilingual edition of its information booklet tailored for young talents. In addition, AfWASA promoted their international visibility, notably through active involvement in the World Water Week in Stockholm, where dedicated sessions were held for them.

These actions reflect AfWASA's unwavering commitment to elevating emerging expertise, fostering intergenerational inclusion, and preparing a competent next generation capable of addressing the future challenges of the water and sanitation sector in Africa.

4.3 Member Services

Data Strategy

AfWASA has embarked on an ambitious digital transformation journey through the development of its new Data Strategy, fully aligned with its 2024–2028 Strategic Plan. This initiative aims to strengthen the capacities of African water and sanitation operators in data management, analysis, and valorization.

To support this process, a Data Specialist Group was established to develop reference frameworks and technical recommendations. In this context, a workshop was organized in collaboration

with the California Data Collaborative (CaDC), a recognized partner in water-focused data science.

This workshop enabled rich exchanges on key topics such as interoperability, predictive intelligence, and performance visualization. The collaboration reflects AfWASA's ambition to position data as a driver of innovation and performance in the African water and sanitation sector.

Development of the Exchange Platform

AfWASA has continued the strategic development of Xchange, its new digital platform

for interaction and collaboration. Designed as a lever for member engagement and value creation, Xchange facilitates interaction among all categories of members.

As a true hub of innovation, the platform disseminates key information on the WASH sector and highlights emerging projects led by members. Having already been successfully tested with several Specialist Groups, the platform is currently entering a progressive onboarding phase. Its official launch is scheduled for the Kampala Congress in 2025, positioning Xchange as a flagship tool of collective intelligence serving the pan-African water and sanitation community.





5 PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT



5.1. Water Program: AfriCap



The AfriCap program has solidified its strategic role in strengthening WASH sector capacities across Africa. In December 2023, two major technical missions were conducted in Cameroon and South Africa, focusing on water quality management and the development of laboratory manuals. Fifteen Performance Improvement Plans (PIPs) were implemented in 13 African countries, targeting Non-Revenue Water (NRW) reduction and laboratory enhancements. Eight pilot projects were selected for funding, each receiving \$12,500. The program made significant contributions to the CST meeting in Lomé and to the dissemination of best practices through over 450 knowledge products, the creation of communities of practice, and a marked increase in subscribers across communication platforms. A pause-and-reflection workshop held in Abidjan enabled a strategic review of AfriCap Phase 2.

Its institutional impact is noteworthy: revision of AfWASA's statutes, human resource reinforcement, initiation of ISO 9001 certification, and improved governance. In parallel, membership rose by 174%.

From an inclusion perspective, a gender

strategy was validated, supporting eight women's networks and engaging 40 young researchers from 27 countries. The program was granted a one-year extension along with an additional \$1 million in funding recognizing its success in terms of performance, innovation, and social impact.

In Côte d'Ivoire, AfriCap had a significant dual impact, both institutional and technical. On the institutional side, the presence of AfWASA's headquarters in Abidjan, hosted by SODECI, enhanced coordination of regional activities. This momentum led to the organization of key strategic events, such as the «Pause and Reflection» workshop co-hosted with USAID on January 22–23, 2024.

On the technical side, a Data Quality Assessment (DQA) was conducted in Abidjan in July 2024 by USAID, improving the reliability of information used in water management. The project also strengthened collaboration between AfWASA and key national operators such as SODECI, ONEP, and ONAD, fostering a conducive environment for expertise sharing and continuous performance improvement within the sector.

5.2. Water Program: EMPOWER-WASH AFRICA



Launched in November 2023, the EMPOWER WASH program aims to strengthen the capacities of rural water service providers in six African countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, and Uganda. It is based on the identification of 30 pilot districts, the training of

90 focal points in the use of the KoboCollect tool, and the collection of data from over 1,200 households and 87 service providers. The pilot phase enabled a detailed assessment of WASH systems in eight countries and led to the approval of a new two-year funding of \$530,000.

The program is structured around three pillars: knowledge generation, networking among districts, and the awarding of scholarships to ten young professionals. Benchmarking visits to Benin and Rwanda, a webinar that brought together 130 participants from 42 countries, and the publication of four learning briefs facilitated the dissemination of best practices.

Phase II will be officially launched in Kigali in January 2025. It includes a regional training session in Kampala and builds on strong partnerships, particularly with Water For People and IRC Ghana. Implementation agreements have been signed with local experts and five Cameroonian municipalities. The program has had a tangible impact on improving WASH services, strengthening institutional frameworks, and promoting the inclusion of young professionals in sector governance.

5.3. Sanitation Program: SAO-CWIS

Launched in October 2022, the SAO-CWIS program, implemented by AfWASA, aims to promote inclusive, sustainable, and equitable urban sanitation in 14 sub-Saharan African countries, with a strong focus on female leadership. To date, 400 women have been trained, 9 audits have been conducted, and 11 benchmarking visits have been carried out out of the 17 initially planned.

The program enabled field visits in Central and Eastern Africa, notably in Cameroon, Ethiopia, and Uganda, as well as at ONAS in Senegal, with the participation of delegations from Kumasi, Lomé, Niamey, and Conakry. These exchanges facilitated the transfer of skills in the management of WASH services.

In Côte d'Ivoire, participation in these activities helped reinforce national momentum around

sanitation. Technical audits were carried out in several cities to develop Performance Improvement Plans. In parallel, post-training missions were conducted in Burkina Faso to assess the impact of training sessions for manual emptiers, revealing disparities depending on local practices.

The program also developed an advocacy plan for UN-Habitat in Kenya and organized training sessions in Nakuru and Malindi. Despite the shift in the Gates Foundation's strategic direction, AfWASA's entire allocated budget was maintained, allowing activities to be scaled up. In total, 74 stakeholders were trained across 12 African cities, thereby strengthening regional cooperation for sustainable urban sanitation services.

5.4. GAPWAS and AGTIWAS Programs



The GAPWAS and AGTIWAS programs, implemented in partnership with AfWASA, have made major strides in promoting gender equality, women's leadership, and inclusive transformation of the WASH sector in Africa.

The GAPWAS program continued its mission to reduce professional inequalities in the sector by building the capacities of over 300 women professionals from 20 countries. Several regional workshops were organized, including one in Côte d'Ivoire on women's leadership and another in Ghana on intergenerational mentorship. A best-practice guide on gender and governance was developed and disseminated across the continent.

In parallel, AGTIWAS launched pilot initiatives in 10 African countries aimed at integrating inclusion, climate resilience, and technological innovation into the planning of water and sanitation services. In 2024, eight case studies were conducted in

urban and peri-urban contexts, analyzing the barriers to equitable WASH service access. The findings were presented at the 21st AfWASA International Congress, contributing to the continent-wide strategic dialogue.

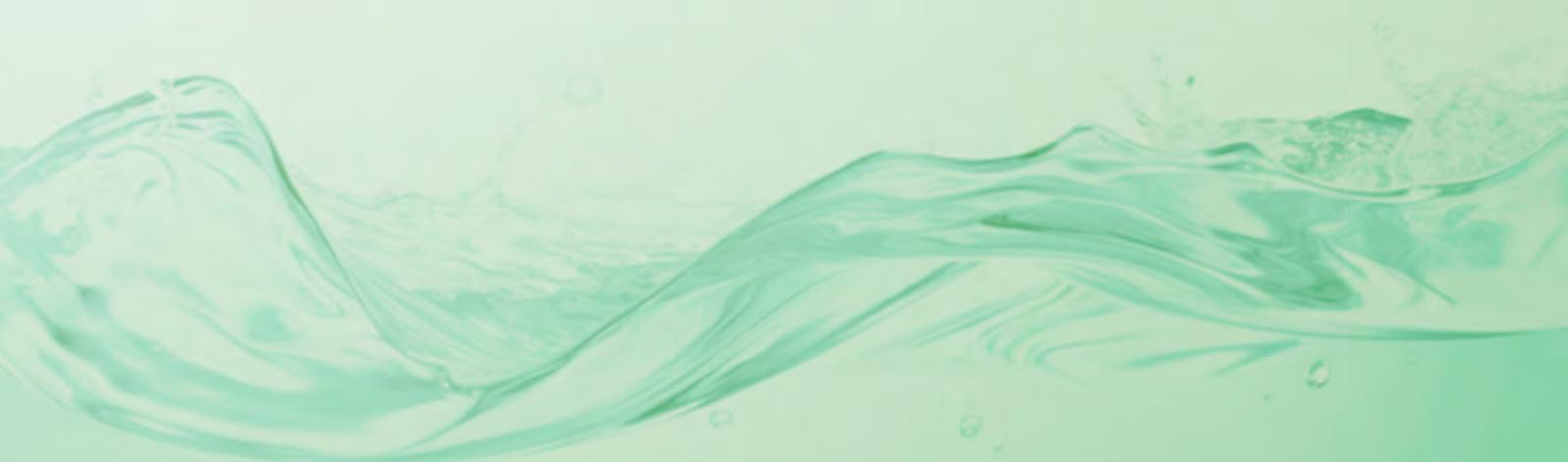
Communities of practice were established under AGTIWAS, engaging more than 200 technical experts, local elected officials, and civil society representatives. In addition, the two programs supported the publication of 15 learning briefs and organized an international webinar that brought together 250 participants from 35 countries.

Finally, in collaboration with AfWASA, GAPWAS and AGTIWAS contributed to the development of an integrated Gender and Inclusion Strategy embedded in the Association's 2024–2028 Action Plan marking a significant step forward toward a more equitable, effective, and sustainable WASH sector in Africa.



6

PARTENERSHIPS



6.1 German-African Partnership for Water and Sanitation (GAPWAS)



As part of GAPWAS, a strategic milestone was reached with the organization of a high-level working session held on September 2, 2024, in Hamburg. On this occasion, the Executive Director of AfWASA, accompanied by the team from the Global Water Partnership (GWP), met with the leadership of Hamburg Wasser, a leading water utility in Germany. This meeting strengthened existing synergies around promising projects for the African continent. The discussions highlighted German innovations in sustainable water management while exploring concrete opportunities for cooperation, particularly in Southern Africa, through AfWASA's regional offices and the involvement of AWASA.

The GAPWAS project, a cornerstone of this partnership dynamic, is scheduled to conclude in October 2025. A planning workshop was held to assess the progress made in 2024. It underscored several key achievements: organization of trainings on gender mainstreaming and benchmarking, improvement of digital tools, and enhancement of member services. These exchanges led to the development of a structured action plan for the project's final phase.

The priorities for 2025 include finalizing the website, strengthening membership engagement, implementing capacity-building sessions, and ensuring active participation in major sectoral events,

foremost among them the 22nd AfWASA International Congress and Exhibition (CIE 2025). In addition, the "Ask the Experts" program will be formalized to become a sustainable tool for showcasing regional expertise.

The workshop also emphasized the need for an independent evaluation of the project's impacts, with the aim of embedding its achievements into a renewed governance framework. Furthermore, the consolidation of expert groups and the establishment of innovation platforms were identified as strategic directions to ensure the sustainability of the partnership with GWP, in support of a resilient future for the water and sanitation sector in Africa.

6.2 9th Africa Water Week by AMCOW

Under the auspices of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), the 9th Africa Water Week was held from October 14 to 17, 2024, in Cairo, in partnership with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, Member States, and numerous technical and financial partners. Themed «Placing Water and Sanitation at the Heart of Achieving Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want», this edition was jointly organized with the 7th Cairo Water Week, which focused on the link between water and climate, and on building resilient communities.

AfWASA actively participated in the event by contributing to several strategic sessions. The Association notably took part in discussions on the establishment of an early warning system, post-Malabo irrigation policy, investment prospects, and the African hydrological dialogue geared toward climate action. It also partnered with WaterAid to promote climate-resilient WASH, particularly through the innovative case of WASH accounts in Niger. Finally, its participation in a session hosted by Speak Up Africa helped underscore the urgency of a collaborative approach to accelerate access to sanitation by 2030.

In continuity, AfWASA has been invited to participate in the AMCOW West Africa

Regional Meeting, to be held in Abuja, Nigeria, from March 18 to 20, 2025.

6.3 Renewal of the Cooperation Agreement between AfWASA and GWOPA

The historic partnership between AfWASA and GWOPA was further consolidated through

the official renewal of their cooperation agreement in October 2024, a collaboration that has spanned nearly two decades. This renewal reflects a shared commitment to preserve achievements and strengthen the momentum of Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs) across the African continent, with AfWASA serving as the coordinating structure of the WOP-Africa regional platform. As part of this renewed cooperation, AfWASA



advocated for greater representation of French-speaking African water and sanitation utilities within GWOPA's governance structures. This request was positively received, resulting in the allocation of a dedicated seat on the Steering Committee, thereby enhancing inclusiveness and the impact of joint initiatives.

AfWASA also actively participated in the GWOPA General Assembly, held from November 2 to 4, 2024, in Cairo. The event served as an opportunity to review progress made, particularly the launch of Phase II of the EU-funded WOP program. It also allowed for the exchange of perspectives on key upcoming events such as participation in COP29 and the organization of the 2025 Global WOP Congress, in which AfWASA is

expected to play a leading role.

6.4 ESAWAS

The relationship between AfWASA and ESAWAS has witnessed significant progress, marked by a joint ambition to strengthen sectoral regulation across the continent. The 3rd Conference of Water Regulators from Eastern and Southern Africa, held from September 23 to 27, 2024, in Blantyre (Malawi), served as a key platform for strategic reflection and exchange. The event, themed "Adaptive Regulation: Responding to Emerging Challenges," emphasized the need for regulatory authorities to continuously adjust their approaches to ensure sustainable, accessible, and resilient

services in the face of economic, social, and climate transitions.

AfWASA commended ESAWAS for its role as a continental platform for capacity building, knowledge sharing, and regulatory innovation in the water and sanitation sector. Building on this dynamic, both institutions formalized their partnership through the signing of a framework agreement on June 28, 2024.

To translate this strategic alliance into impactful actions, AfWASA and ESAWAS jointly developed and submitted a concept note to the African Development Bank (AfDB). The project aims to operationalize a series of regional regulatory initiatives, strengthen inter-institutional synergies, and contribute to the establishment of common standards for a more efficient and inclusive sector.

6.5 AfWASA–Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) Collaboration

On October 31, 2024, AfWASA and GGGI signed a three-year cooperation agreement built around four core pillars: capacity building, knowledge sharing, collaboration within AfWASA's specialist groups, and the promotion of experience exchange. This agreement reflects a shared commitment to equip sector stakeholders local authorities, technical experts, and policymakers with the tools and levers needed to foster innovative,

sustainable, and resilient solutions to Africa's growing climate challenges.

As part of this partnership, a high-level webinar is scheduled for 2025, focusing on the nexus between sanitation, climate change, and finance. It aims to enhance understanding of the interconnections between these strategic areas and to promote integrated approaches in support of sustainable development.



6.6 Collaboration AfWASA - DBSA

In pursuit of its mission to build capacity and promote applied research in the water and sanitation sector, AfWASA has initiated a structuring partnership with DBSA. This collaboration materialized through the joint submission of a project concept note, in partnership with a consortium of six Southern African universities, including four based in South Africa.

The proposed project aims to establish a collaborative platform between academia and sector professionals to develop research and training programs addressing emerging water and sanitation challenges. This initiative

promotes co-construction of knowledge, the valorization of regional expertise, and the development of innovative solutions tailored to field realities.

This ambitious partnership reflects the shared commitment of AfWASA and DBSA to support African centers of excellence, contribute to the professionalization of the sector, and nurture a new generation of African leaders and researchers. It also stands as an example of effective South-South cooperation, aligned with continental priorities for sustainable transformation, water security, and equitable access to essential services.

6.7 Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA)

As part of its institutional positioning strategy and advocacy for stronger integration of the water and sanitation sector into development agendas, AfWASA participated for the first time in the 8th edition of PIDA Week, held from November 25 to 29, 2024, at the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa.

Held under the theme “Fostering Resilient and Inclusive Infrastructure for Africa’s Sustainable Growth: Leveraging Transformative Financing and Regional Integration,” this edition provided a key opportunity for dialogue among continental institutions, Regional Economic Communities, technical and financial partners, and sector operators.

AfWASA’s active participation in this high-level event reflected its strategic rapprochement with African decision-making bodies, particularly the African Development Bank (AfDB), a key partner of the PIDA program. This initiative aligns fully with AfWASA’s 2024–2028 Strategic Plan, which seeks to reinforce the association’s role in continental infrastructure planning and financing processes, while promoting increased prioritization of the water and sanitation sector.

The discussions enabled AfWASA to highlight the critical importance of universal access to

sustainable water and sanitation services as a lever for social, economic, and environmental transformation in Africa. This advocacy was well received by participating partners, paving the way for future synergies with PIDA PAP 3 and the exploration of funding opportunities for projects with high regional impact.

This initial formal engagement of AfWASA within the PIDA framework marks a significant step toward greater institutional recognition of the strategic role of water and sanitation actors in achieving Africa’s development goals by 2063.





7

PARTICIPATION IN MAJOR EVENTS



7.1 AfWASA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE 5TH MEDITERRANEAN WATER FORUM



AfWASA participated in the 5th Mediterranean Water Forum, held from February 5 to 7, 2024, in Tunis, under the evocative theme: "Together for Shared Water Sobriety."

The participation of AfWASA's Executive Director in this major international event provided a significant opportunity to extend the Association's reach beyond the African continent by strengthening collaborative bridges with Mediterranean countries. Through high-level meetings, thematic panels, and bilateral exchanges, AfWASA actively promoted its strategic priorities, particularly in the areas of sustainable water resource management, climate resilience, and South-South and triangular cooperation. The Forum also allowed AfWASA to showcase African expertise in water sobriety, while integrating lessons learned from the Mediterranean region to enrich adaptation policies across the continent. The event served as a platform for dialogue to reinforce synergies with institutions such as the Union for the Mediterranean, the Council of Arab Ministers for Water, and development agencies working on water governance, technological innovation, and Integrated

Water Resources Management (IWRM). AfWASA's participation in this forum illustrates its ongoing commitment to align with global dynamics of water solidarity, while asserting its leadership in shaping regional policies, promoting inter-institutional partnerships, and strengthening the capacities of African water and sanitation operators. Thus, the 5th Mediterranean Water Forum served as a strategic lever for expanding AfWASA's influence, positioning its initiatives within the global water management debate, and reinforcing its role as a reference platform for water cooperation in Africa and beyond.

7.2 German Business Mission in Côte d'Ivoire

As part of its strategy to mobilize technical and financial partnerships, AfWASA took part in the German Business Mission held in Côte d'Ivoire from February 19 to 23, 2024. This mission, led by the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce for West Africa (AHK), in collaboration with GIZ, brought together a panel of innovative German and international companies operating in the water, sanitation, environmental engineering, and sustainable construction sectors.

AfWASA's participation in this mission was marked by several key highlights:

- Targeted B2B meetings, enabling direct dialogue between the Association and leading technological stakeholders;
- The presentation of major flagship projects driven by AfWASA, including initiatives related to the digitalization of water services, the promotion of circular economy models in sanitation, and the development of skills among African operators;
- The promotion of co-financing and technology transfer opportunities through connections with potential technical partners and development finance institutions.

This mission highlighted AfWASA's catalytic role in networking WASH actors across Africa, while providing a conducive framework for strengthening cooperation between African

operators and German industrial players. It also contributed to identifying technical solutions tailored to the specific challenges of AfWASA member countries, particularly in relation to sustainable water resource management, climate resilience, and universal access to basic services.

Through this participation, AfWASA reaffirmed its positioning as a strategic interface between the needs of the African continent and global technological innovations, and renewed its commitment to facilitating the emergence of high-impact projects that benefit African populations.

7.3 AfWASA's Participation in the 30th Nigerian National Water Resources Meeting

AfWASA's Participation in the 30th Nigerian National Water Resources Meeting

As part of its efforts to strengthen its presence in national water governance processes, AfWASA was represented by its national focal point during the 30th Nigerian National Water Resources Meeting, held in February 2024 in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria.

Organized under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation (FMWRS), this annual meeting serves as a major strategic gathering for all water stakeholders in Nigeria, including representatives from the 36 federal states, public agencies, universities, NGOs, development partners, and the private sector.

AfWASA's participation in this event made it possible to:

- Reaffirm its role as a continental platform for expertise and policy dialogue by contributing to discussions on governance, financing, and climate resilience challenges in the Nigerian water sector;
- Increase its visibility among Nigerian public decision-makers and technical operators by showcasing regional initiatives and AfWASA's flagship programs, particularly in training, service digitalization, and South-South cooperation;
- Strengthen synergies with key national

institutions such as the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA), the Nigeria Integrated Water Resources Management Commission, and federated utilities, fostering harmonization of practices and experience sharing.

Through this representation, AfWASA confirmed its role as a key actor in the implementation of sectoral policies across the continent. It also demonstrated its ability to support its members in national planning, reform, and implementation processes related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 6).

This participation forms part of a broader strategy to anchor AfWASA at the national level, aiming to reinforce interactions between its country representations and competent authorities in member states, in order to promote local ownership of reforms and build institutional capacities.

7.4 AfWASA's Participation in the 10th World Water Forum

As a member of the World Water Council (WWC), AfWASA was fully engaged in the preparatory work for the 10th World Water Forum, scheduled to take place in Bali, Indonesia, from May 18 to 24, 2024, under the central theme: "Water for Shared Prosperity." This participation aligns with AfWASA's global positioning strategy and its active advocacy to ensure that African priorities are reflected in the international water and sanitation agenda. AfWASA contributed on multiple fronts, including thematic working groups, technical discussions, governance processes, and the development of political messages representing the African continent.

One of AfWASA's major contributions was the involvement of its Gender Specialist. Thanks to her engagement in the Forum's preparatory bodies, a high-level workshop on gender equality in the water sector was officially included in the event's agenda. This achievement reflects AfWASA's strong commitment to promoting a governance model based on inclusion, equity, and social justice.



AfWASA's presence at this global forum the world's largest gathering focused on water issues further reinforced its role as a continental platform for dialogue, mobilization, and expertise. It also underscored its dedication to advancing gender-responsive policies and supporting the structural transformation of the water and sanitation sector in Africa. Moreover, the Forum provided AfWASA with a valuable platform to strengthen technical and institutional partnerships. It facilitated

new exchanges with governments, development agencies, universities, NGOs, and technical operators, paving the way for future collaborations grounded in innovation and impact.

Lastly, AfWASA's participation in this high-profile event significantly increased its visibility and institutional standing, solidifying its legitimacy as a key player and driver of sustainable transformation in WASH services across Africa.

7.5 93rd AfWASA STC Meeting - Lomé (July 2024)



AfWASA's Strategic and Technical Council held its first session of 2024 from July 16 to 18 at Hôtel 02 Février in Lomé, Togo, under the theme: "Resilience of African Water and Sanitation Utilities in the Face of Climate Change." The event brought together nearly 200 delegates from twenty African countries. The opening ceremony featured a welcome address by the Director General of TdE, Mr. GBATI Yawanké Waké, who emphasized the urgent need for adaptation to the growing impacts of climate disruption. STC President Mr. PAPA SAMBA DIOP underscored the necessity of coordinated responses and highlighted the importance of mobilizing sustainable financing mechanisms to support resilience.

Representing the Senegalese Minister of Water and Sanitation, Dr. Cheikh Tidiane DIEYE, Mr. Julien SAGNA delivered a message of encouragement to all participants. AfWASA's Executive Director highlighted Africa's increasing vulnerability to extreme

climate events such as irregular rainfall, floods, and droughts and stressed the need for robust adaptation strategies.

Speaking on behalf of the Togolese Minister of Water and Village Hydraulics, the Minister of Environment and Forest Resources, Mr. FOLI-BAZI Katari, welcomed this continental initiative. He called for converging efforts to build more resilient water and sanitation utilities and urged investment in innovative technologies, capacity building, and integrated water resources management systems. He officially opened the CST and wished success to the 93rd session.

The ceremony was followed by the official opening of the technical exhibition, featuring over ten industrial and institutional actors in the sector, including Interplast Limited, ST Digital, SOTICI, SIPPEC, Global Plomberie, ADVANSOS, CCEABT, ARWP, TdE, and AfWASA. This exhibition showcased the vibrancy of innovation for climate resilience in Africa's water and sanitation sector. A Board Committee meeting was held on July 19, 2024.

7.6 AfWASA's 94th STC Meeting – Kampala, UGANDA (November 2024)

The 94th edition of the STC took place from November 18 to 20, 2024, in Kampala, Uganda, at the NWSC International Resource Centre, followed by the Executive Committee meeting on November 21. The event brought together nearly 100 delegates from 17 African countries, representing 24 organizations, with a noteworthy female participation rate approaching one-third.

Under the theme “Disruptive Technologies and Innovation as Accelerators of SDG 6 in Africa,” the CST served as a strategic platform for reflection and exchange on innovative technological solutions addressing the structural challenges of the water and sanitation sector on the continent.

Three major highlights defined this session:

1. Opening Ceremony: Featuring five high-level speeches and three thematic panels on:

- o Disruptive technologies and innovations in the WASH sector,
- o Research as a lever for breakthrough solutions to achieve SDG 6,
- o Governance and financing for innovation.

2. Technical sessions and contributions related to the preparations for AfWASA's 22nd International Congress and Exhibition, to be held in Kampala, Uganda.

3. Closing Ceremony: Marked by key recommendations focused on innovation and regional cooperation.

This session reinforced AfWASA's role as a catalyst for technological transformation in the sector, while affirming the importance of African cooperation around scientific intelligence, inclusive innovation, and the sharing of high-impact solutions.



7.7 AfWASA's Participation in the IWA World Water Congress – Toronto



From August 11 to 15, 2024, AfWASA took part in the IWA World Water Congress, held in Toronto, Canada. The event gathered professionals, researchers, policymakers, and private sector representatives from around the world to address global water challenges.

AfWASA's participation in the Congress served as a strategic opportunity to affirm its positioning on the international stage, particularly on critical issues such as gender equality, women's leadership, and the promotion of African talent in the water and sanitation sectors. Through speaking engagements, technical exchanges, and thematic panels, AfWASA contributed to amplifying a strong African voice grounded in values of inclusion, diversity, and social innovation.

AfWASA also used this global platform to actively promote the upcoming 22nd International Congress and Exhibition, scheduled for February 2025 in Kampala,

Uganda. This visibility campaign sparked strong interest from technical and institutional partners, particularly regarding participation as speakers, exhibitors, or sponsors. Targeted communication materials were distributed, and several bilateral meetings were held to present the event's strategic objectives and themes.

In addition, AfWASA's presence in Toronto facilitated the exploration of new cooperation opportunities, particularly in applied research, technological solutions for public services, integrated water resources management, and capacity building for African operators. Partnership prospects were initiated with universities, research centers, NGOs, and innovative companies seeking to operate in Africa.

This participation fully aligned with AfWASA's mission to connect African initiatives with international knowledge networks, mobilize practical solutions to structural challenges, and promote governance models rooted in equity, sustainability, and resilience.

7.8 World Water Week in Stockholm

AfWASA also participated in World Water Week, held in Stockholm, Sweden, from August 25 to 30, 2024, under the auspices of the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). This event, considered one of the most influential in the sector, brought together international institutions, governments, development partners, research centers, private companies, and civil society representatives around the theme: "Bridging the Gaps: Collaborative Solutions for a Water-Wise World."



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