



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY  
AFRICAN MINISTERS' COUNCIL ON WATER (AMCOW)

## Table of Content

Acronyms and Abbreviations	2
About Us	3
Executive Summary	4-5
Foreword from AMCOW President	6
Foreword by AMCOW Executive Secretary	7
Introduction	8
Key Achievements	11
Making AMCOW Stronger and More Effective	11
How AMCOW Mobilises Resources	11
Increasing Capacity at AMCOW	11
AMCOW's Governance Framework	15
9th World Water Day Forum	16
Safety Managed Sanitation and Hygiene	16
The African Sanitation Policy Guidelines	16-19
Africasan	19-20
Water Security	20
APAGrop	20
Monitoring and Evaluation	21
WASSMO	22
Africasan Ngor Indicators and Baseline Report	22
Improving Data Collection and Reporting by Member States	23-24
Data Collection and Reporting	24
Knowledge Management	25
Global Information Sharing	25-26
Knowledge Products	27-28
Working with Centres and Excellence	28
8th Africa Water Week (AWW-8)	28-29
Communications and Visibility	30-34
Income and Expenditure	35-37
AMCOW's Member State, Technical and Financial Partners	35
Contacts	38
Annexes	38



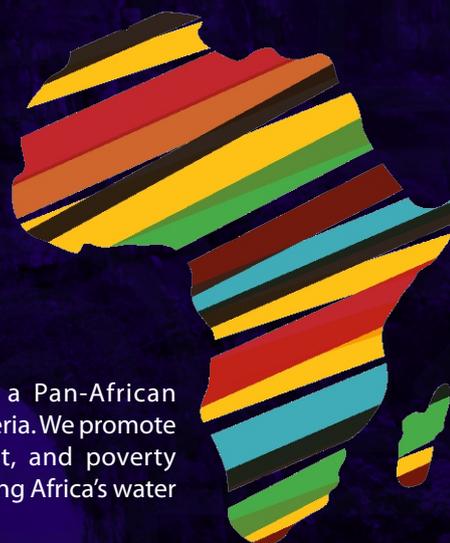
## Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAC	AfricaSan Advisory Committee
AfDB	African Development Bank
AWA	African Water Association
AITF	AfricaSan International Task Force
AMCOW	African Ministers' Council on Water
APAGroP	Pan African Groundwater Program
ARDWE	Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment
ASPG	African Sanitation Policy Guidelines
AUC	African Union Commission
AUDA	African Union Development Agency
AWBP	Annual Work and Budget Plan
AWF	African Water Facility
AWW	Africa Water Week
AWW-8	8th Africa Water Week
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BGR	German Geological Survey
BGS	British Geological Survey
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
CAPOOP	Communications, Advocacy, Policy, Opportunities and Outreach for Poop
CBLT	Commission du Bassin du Lac Tchad
CCP	Cross-Cutting Priorities
CSP	Country Sanitation Processes Sub-Committee
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EQND/LNOB	Equality and Non-Discrimination/Leave No One Behind
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning
EXCO	Executive Committee
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
KMIS	Knowledge Management and Information Sharing
KOBWA	Komati Basin Water Authority
L/RBOS	Lake and River Basin Organisations
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCP	National Coordination Platform
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
OMVG	Organization pour la Mise en Valeur du Fleuve Gambie
OSS	Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel
PATWaM	Pan-African Transboundary Water Program
PITT	Performance Indicators Tracking Table
RECs	Regional Economics Communities
SABC	South African Broadcasting Corporation
SAC	Strategic Advisory Committee
SADC-GMI	Southern African Development Community's Groundwater Management Institute
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SML	Sub-Committee on Monitoring and Learning
STC	Specialised Technical Committee
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TEC	Technical Experts Committee
TESCO	Technical and Scientific Committee
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UPGro	Unlocking the Potential of Groundwater for the Poor
USAID	United States Agency for International Development



# About us

## Who we are



The African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) is a Pan-African intergovernmental organisation formed in 2002 in Abuja, Nigeria. We promote cooperation, security, social and economic development, and poverty eradication in our Member States through effectively managing Africa's water resources and water supply services.

### During the

# 11th

### Ordinary Session

of the African Union Assembly held in Sharm El-Sheikh in 2008, Heads of States and Governments committed to accelerating Africa's water and sanitation goals, and AMCOW was requested to develop and implement a strategy for this. Water and sanitation are critical to human and economic development, and the African Union Commission (AUC) regards AMCOW as a way to support its Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE) to have a positive impact in the water and sanitation sectors.

The UN explored the idea of a regional ministerial forum on water in Africa.

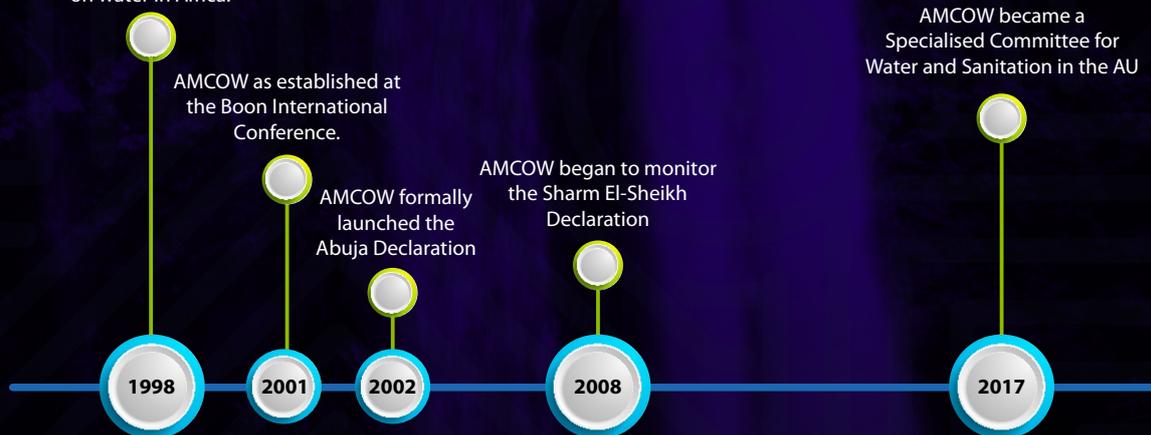


Figure 1: History timeline of AMCOW

## What we do

AMCOW's vision sees an Africa that works together to provide water resources in a more equitable and sustainable way, resulting in less poverty, more socio-economic development, and better regional and environmental cooperation. Our leadership, policies and advocacy help and guide African Member States to achieve this end.

## Executive Summary

The AMCOW Secretariat focuses on helping African countries achieve the global development goals relating to water and sanitation as a means to economic growth. It is working to ensure that water provision and resources in Africa are managed correctly to provide an adequate and safe supply. AMCOW works to foster intercontinental cooperation between Member States, especially those countries sharing water boundaries, to manage emerging conflicts and guarantee security.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 presented huge challenges across Africa, AMCOW has worked throughout with its development partners to support Member Countries with coordination and technical services. During this time, it has developed the African Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPG) and the Ngor Declaration on sanitation monitoring. It also launched the second phase of the Pan African Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring (WASSMO) project, built its knowledge management system, and established the Pan African Groundwater Program (APAGroP).

This document reports on AMCOW's achievements in 2020. These include making AMCOW more effective as an organisation, working to improve sanitation, hygiene and water, monitoring its commitments to others, and making information available as part of its Operational Plan 2020 – 2024. Also included in this report are AMCOW's media presence, income, expenditure and any lessons that have been learned during this time. The report highlights the support and training offered to Member States to improve their policies, practice and capacity, and the promotion of water and sanitation at a high level. Its Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system means that all resources can be used more efficiently, with clear and accountable administration procedures and financial management. In 2020, the Executive Secretary visited many Member States to present AMCOW's Strategy 2018 – 2030, the Strategic Operational Plan (SOP) 2020 – 2024, and other ways of strengthening the institution. New appointments of an Information Technology/Database (ITDB) Officer, a Groundwater Desk Officer and a Senior Policy Advisor have increased its capacity significantly.

AMCOW held two rounds of face-to-face and online sub-regional meetings of the Technical Experts Committee (TEC) to strengthen the links with its stakeholders. All African regions took part in discussions on AMCOW's Strategy 2018 – 2030, the SOP 2020 – 2024 and Work Plan, focusing on ways to strengthen the institution, to create new programmes and projects, to improve governance issues, to consider the contributions made by individual countries, and the need to make sure its policies are in line with SDG 6.2 and other commitments. The TEC recommended helping member countries to plan how to respond to future pandemics, with WASH as a central consideration.

In May 2020, AMCOW's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met to report on the previous quarter and to decide on the issues for the 12th Ordinary Session of the Executive Committee. However, it was decided during this meeting to cancel any existing plans, and instead, to focus on key issues arising from the pandemic and to move to online meetings.

During this session, the Executive Committee (EXCO) agreed to renew the Executive Secretary's contract for a second and final four-year term. The EXCO also approved the AMCOW Strategic Operational Plan 2020 – 2024, the Finance and HR Policies and Procedure Manuals, the 2018 Financial Audit Report and the 2020 Annual Work Plan and Budget. At the same meeting, the Camissa Multi-Stakeholder Statement on Achieving Access to Adequate and Equitable Sanitation and Hygiene for All and Ending Open Defecation in Africa by 2030 was endorsed and the TAC Sub-Committee on Sanitation was formalised.

Following the 9th World Water Forum (WWF-9) in Abuja, Nigeria, in February 2020, it was agreed to work collaboratively, using joint communications, information sharing and strategic outreach to ensure the active involvement of all the main organisations involved in water and sanitation.



Despite the pandemic, AMCOW launched the African Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPG) following consultations with a broad range of stakeholders in Senegal, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Liberia, South Sudan, Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded this initiative to provide African governments with guidance on improving or developing clear, comprehensive national sanitation policies. In June 2018, AMCOW received \$350,000 for two-year's institutional support from the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Water for Africa through the Leadership and Institutional Strengthening (WALIS) programme. This focused on governance, financial management, strategic planning, performance management and human resources, and on supporting their lead role in the AfricaSan International Task Force (AITF).

During the African Water Association (AfWA) Congress in Kampala in February 2020, AMCOW and its partners ran a series of groundwater events. These resulted in the creation of six APAGroP action groups, to carry out activities during the 8th Africa Water Week (AWW-8) in Windhoek, Namibia, in November 2021, and at WWF-9 in Dakar, Senegal, in March 2022. The AMCOW Secretariat organised its partners to support the launch of certain groundwater activities, an example being a pilot of the Namibia Country Support Tool.

On monitoring and evaluation (M&E), AMCOW drafted a strategy for reporting progress on its Operational Plan 2020 – 2024 and updated its AfricaSan Ngor monitoring and analysis processes. Secretariat staff were trained on Results-Based Management. A review of the WASSMO IT system led to further improvements, with support from the Africa Water Facility (AWF) to launch Phase II in June 2020.

Virtual training sessions were given in 46 member countries on the use of this improved monitoring system and on issues related to Equality and Non-Discrimination/Leave No One Behind (EQND/LNOB). A National Coordination Platform (NCP) in each state now provides the means of collecting data and reporting for the WASSMO system. The Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Lake and River Basin Organisations (L/RBOs) link up with AMCOW's knowledge hub to share information and resources for the benefit of all water users. Making relationships stronger with the African Union Development Agency (AUDA)/New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Water Centres of Excellence (WCoE) and the Lake and River Basin Organisations (L/RBOs) has also led to better collaboration.

AMCOW's Knowledge Management Strategy 2017 was approved in February 2019, providing a Knowledge Management and Information Sharing (KMIS) system at the Secretariat, and a new Library and Information Centre, known as the Mukhtari Shehu Shagari Resource Centre (MSSRC). The Secretariat also created a Hub-of-Hubs — a virtual knowledge hub to collect and share Africa's water and sanitation information and knowledge. Also, AMCOW collected and, in some cases, developed and made accessible a range of publications on important issues for Africa's sanitation sector.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, AMCOW has carried on working towards financial sustainability. It has also made efforts to improve systems and increase staff numbers to implement its SOP 2020 – 2024 and to deliver its mandate in the future. Due to the pandemic, new online ways of information sharing and learning across the sector are now used. The launch of the knowledge hub, the Calabash Newsletter, a new interactive website and a webinar series have led to much better information and knowledge sharing. AMCOW now uses these to help coordinate Member States for a more effective response to present and future emergency situations, both collectively and individually.



# Foreword from the AMCOW President

We will never forget the year 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic has rocked the way we live and work. It impacted on AMCOW's budget and work plan for this year, and for more than four months, some of our staff returned home to work virtually across different time zones. However, we learned a lot of lessons from these changes. The new working conditions highlighted the values of global diversity, and our staff improved their virtual working.

During the year, AMCOW's Governing Council extended the office of the incumbent AMCOW Executive Secretary, Dr. Canisius Kanangire, granting him another final four years of service. Efforts by the Secretariat continued to achieve our targets in the face of COVID-19. The 12th Ordinary Session of the Executive Committee (EXCO) and the annual rounds of the sub-regional consultations with the Technical Expert Committee (TEC) were held virtually. During this period, the Governing Council postponed Africa Water Week. Also, AMCOW organised virtual meetings to exchange learning and knowledge to help all Member States contain the pandemic.



The AMCOW Secretariat took giant strides to improve its communications and visibility across its constituencies for better collaboration and more solidarity in the sector across the whole continent for sustainable growth. AMCOW used the internet and social media to maintain the interest of its stakeholders, as well as other tools including global webinars, regular journal reports and our new newsletter 'The Calabash'.

Our stakeholders are important, so we launched an online survey and a range of brainstorming activities to get their feedback. Also, we introduced evaluation and feedback mechanisms in all major meetings so that participants' suggestions and opinions about AMCOW's programmes and initiatives would not be lost.

Huge thanks go to AMCOW's funding partners who have continued to help us forge ahead, adapt to changing circumstances and reallocate funds to other initiatives instead of cancelling our originally planned activities. Ultimately, AMCOW has achieved a lot, from institutional strengthening to increasing staff numbers, implementing programmes, supporting Member States, and creating strategic partnerships with other organisations.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Member States and partners for their commitment to the AMCOW Secretariat. I thank the Governing Board also for their dedication and guidance.

**H.E. Alain-Claude BILIE-BY-NZE**  
AMCOW President and State Minister, and  
Minister for Energy and Water Resources  
Republic of Gabon.

# Foreword by the AMCOW Executive Secretary

Our original plan for 2020 was to continue the initiatives and activities we started in 2019. We were in the middle of developing the African Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPG) – carrying out country consultations and a series of groundwater events at the AFWA Congress when the COVID-19 lockdown and travel restrictions began. As earlier stated, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted on our work plan such that we shifted some of our activities, including the 8th Africa Water Week (AWW-8) and AMCOW's support to the 9th World Water Forum (WWF-9), hoping for the time when things would return to normal. However, the AMCOW Secretariat continued to coordinate high-level dialogue events and technical activities, which formed part of the AMCOW Strategy 2018 – 2030 and the Strategic Operational Plans (SOP) 2020 – 2024 made in 2019.



We organised the AfricaSan5 Conference in Cape Town, South Africa, launched the Pan African Groundwater Program (APAGroP) in Nairobi, Kenya, and carried out AMCOW's first donor conference on the fringes of the Stockholm World Water Week (SWWW) 2019. Also, AMCOW advanced the development of the ASPG and quality-assured the final draft, which was approved by the Governance Council. More technical experts in the roles of Senior Policy Adviser and Groundwater Desk Officer were employed, adding to the four hired in 2019.

Despite the pandemic's impact on AMCOW's workplan and budget, we focused on our objectives; in some cases, we adapted earlier planned activities to suit new COVID-19 conditions. AMCOW boosted its systems by installing an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) application for better financial transparency, accountability, and improved human resource management. To augment the former and strengthen economic sustainability at the Secretariat, AMCOW developed a resource mobilisation strategy.

Through 2020, the AMCOW Secretariat furthered programmatic efforts to Africa's groundwater development, monitoring, evaluation, learning, knowledge management, and information sharing. On monitoring, the Secretariat launched a second phase of the WASSMO project funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB). We also instituted the second round of the Ngor Commitment Monitoring and the Muhktari Shehu Shagari Resource Centre (MSSRC) — comprising the specialised library at the AMCOW Secretariat and a virtual knowledge hub.

On collaboration with other development partners, AMCOW worked with Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) to engage African Ministers in charge of finance to raise awareness of the sector's conditions and needs and to stimulate increased investment. Also, AMCOW worked with the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on a call for abstracts on several water thematic areas. Furthermore, these young sector professionals received training on standardised writing skills.

I will not close my remarks without recognising the sustained interest and support from its partners that benefitted AMCOW throughout 2020. We highly appreciate the roles that each of them played to help AMCOW remain active and influential. I hope that we continue to improve on the cordial relationship that we have with our partners.

Enjoy reading AMCOW's 2020 report.

**Dr. Canisius Kanangire**  
AMCOW Executive Secretary

## INTRODUCTION

The whole of the African continent witnessed enormous COVID-19 challenges throughout 2020. AMCOW negotiated these conditions with support from its development partners to provide ongoing coordination and technical services to Member Countries. AMCOW developed the ASPG and the Ngor Declaration on sanitation, reliable tools for strengthening countries' sanitation and hygiene conditions. Also, AMCOW's Member States witnessed a second phase of the Pan African Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring (WASSMO) project, which will improve sector data collection and monitoring of progress. They also experienced the launch of a hybrid knowledge management system to accelerate exchange and learning among countries.

This report narrates AMCOW's significant outputs and accomplishments for the calendar year 2020 within its Operational Plan 2020 – 2024. It tells the story of AMCOW's 2020 experiences, highlighting how it supported its Member States, facilitating policy changes for an enabling environment, and providing training to improve institutional capacity and practice. The report shows how AMCOW is championing water and sanitation issues as economic development factors in Africa - fostering regional collaboration, learning and change, based on what is known to work.

Following this introduction, the report's structure flows through AMCOW's key achievements in 2020 (sections 1 to 5), relating to AMCOW's objectives and outcomes, as indicated in each area (see Box 1). Finally, it presents a breakdown of financial information in the Income and Expenditure section. Box 2 summarises the progress on AMCOW's strategic priorities. Further details on this appear in the report.

AMCOW has drafted this report for a broad audience, including its members, partners and stakeholders, and a wider general readership of interested academics, sector practitioners and others.

The year 2020 marked various successes for AMCOW despite the impact and delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. From more technical capacity to improved systems, the AMCOW Secretariat has achieved a firm foundation for implementing its SOP 2020 – 2024 and the effective delivery of its mandate in the future.



## Box 1. AMCOW Objectives and Outcomes

### AMCOW Objectives

Objective 4.3: To ensure that AMCOW has the necessary capacity for implementation of the AMCOW Strategy 2018-2030

Objective 4.4: AMCOW's governance structures can ensure continuity of direction and clarity of roles and responsibilities

Objective 7.1: To support and strengthen decision-making processes at national, sub-regional and continental levels in the water and sanitation sectors

Objective 7.2: To increase the exchange and use of knowledge and best practice by actors in the African water and sanitation sectors

### AMCOW Outcomes

Outcome 2.2.1: The African Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPG) is developed and disseminated

Outcome 4.1.1: Formal linkages and collaboration arrangements are established between AMCOW, the African Union Commission and Regional Economic Communities as well as other regional stakeholders (including the private sector and academia)

Outcome 4.1.3: AMCOW is more present and visible as the primary continental actor for water and sanitation and is Africa's voice at regional, continental and international levels

Outcome 4.3.1: All key functions in the Secretariat are established, fully staffed and performing efficiently and effectively

Outcome 4.4.1: The AMCOW Governance Framework is reviewed, and roles and responsibilities of each organ are clearly defined for more effective delivery of the mandate and vision of AMCOW

Outcome 7.1.1: WASSMO is improved to meet international standards

Outcome 7.1.2: Member States and regional bodies contribute reliable and complete data to serve as the basis for regular reporting and analysis provided to national, regional, and continental decision-making bodies

Outcome 7.2.1: Knowledge Management and Information Sharing (KMIS) is established and operational

Outcome 7.2.2: AMCOW events provide productive and globally respected platforms for the exchange of knowledge and experience in the African water and sanitation sectors

\*Relevant to this reporting period and cross-referenced in this report.



## Box 2. Progress on Strategic Priorities

**Strategic Priority 1: To ensure water security.** The AMCOW Secretariat continued to improve groundwater development in Africa through the AMCOW African Groundwater Program (APAGroP). It initiated strategic collaborations with various partners with the aim of hosting a partner round table in 2021.

**Strategic Priority 2: To ensure safely managed sanitation and hygiene.** The deployment of the ASPG will fundamentally strengthen the sanitation policy landscape in Africa.

**Strategic Priority 4: To strengthen AMCOW's governance and operational effectiveness.** The AMCOW Secretariat's administrative and financial systems are updated, and an online system has replaced outdated manual processes.

**Cross-Cutting Priority (CCP) 3: To improve monitoring, evaluation, and knowledge management systems.** Major achievements include the launch of the second phase of the WASSMO project, the development and launch of the AMCOW Knowledge Hub-of-Hubs, and the AMCOW webinar series.

### 2020 Key achievements at a glance



## Key Achievements

### Making AMCOW Stronger and More Effective

#### How AMCOW Mobilises Resources

Each year, AMCOW sends automated electronic invoices to member countries for their annual subscriptions, together with any outstanding balances. The Executive Secretary visits selected Member States to strengthen their relationship with AMCOW by presenting the Strategy and Strategic Operational Plan, as well as plans to improve service delivery, financial health and sustainability, all of which encourage payment of outstanding contributions. This also gives an opportunity for these countries to provide feedback on AMCOW's effectiveness (see Figure 2), including on the water and sanitation challenges that AMCOW aims to support.



**Figure 2:** AMCOW Executive Secretary, Dr Canisius Kanangire and the Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources, Hon. Cecilia Abena Dapaah in February 2020 (Accra). Hon. Dapaah also serves as AMCOW's Vice President for the West Africa region.  
**Credit photo: AMCOW Secretariat.**

In 2020, AMCOW received support from a number of partners including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) (now known as the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund). A consultant was engaged to develop the Resource Mobilisation Strategy and Financial Sustainability Plan.

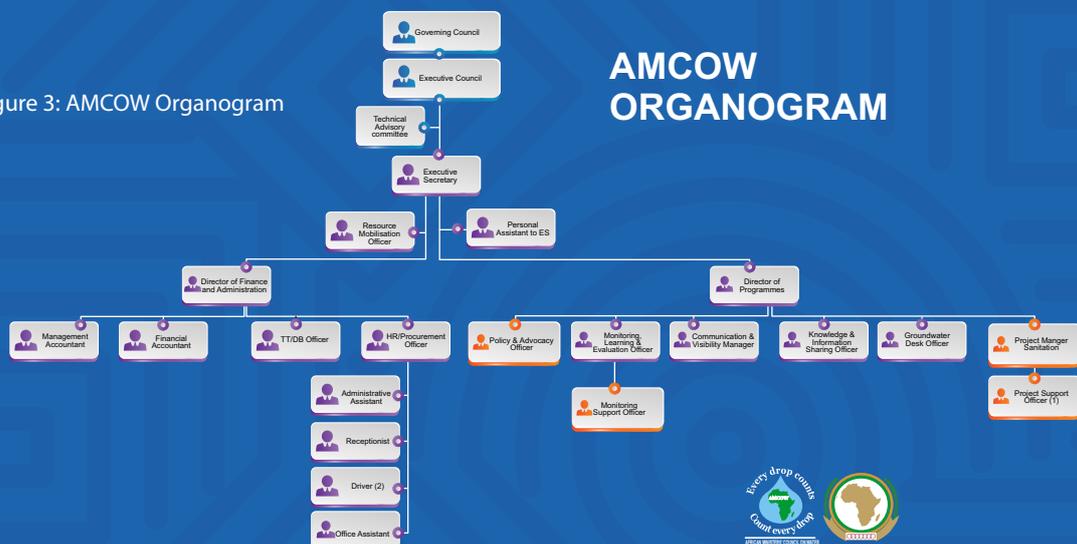
#### Increasing Capacity at AMCOW

See Objective 4.3 and Outcome 4.3.1 (Box 1)

#### New appointments of an IT/Database Officer, Groundwater Desk Officer and Senior Policy Advisor.

In an effort to reach the required technical capacity to meet AMCOW's objectives, several successful recruitments were made to support groundwater development, information technology and policy advisory services. With the exception of the Resource Mobilisation Officer, the AMCOW Secretariat organogram (see Figure 3) is now complete, and demonstrates the new technical emphasis needed to deliver the AMCOW Strategy 2018-2030 and [Strategic Operational Plan 2020-2024](#).

Figure 3: AMCOW Organogram





## AMCOW's Governance and Operational Effectiveness

See Outcome 4.1.1 (Box 1)

**Strengthening regional and continental stakeholder engagement.** The AMCOW Secretariat held the first round of sub-regional meetings of the TEC with North (Figure 4) and Central Africa (Figure 5). This is in line with AMCOW's Rules of Procedure 2019 that require the Council's subsidiary decision-making sections to meet at a sub-regional level.

These meetings, mostly held online, provided an opportunity for Member States to interact with the leadership and staff from the AMCOW Secretariat, and to discuss issues such as the AMCOW Strategy 2018 – 2030 and the SOP 2020 – 2024, AMCOW restructuring and strengthening, its programmes and projects, and the 2020 Work Plan. Also discussed were governance structures, country contributions to AMCOW, how to prioritise sanitation issues and align sanitation and hygiene policies to SDG 6.2 and other commitments (Table 1).

**Table 1: Summary of key recommendations resulting from the 2020 sub-regional meetings**

Recommendations by the TEC from the first set of sub-regional meetings	Recommendations by the TEC from the second set of sub-regional meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· The issue of inclusion of sanitation should be taken up to higher authorities including the AU.</li> <li>· AMCOW should assist in sharing experiences between countries. For instance, Egypt, Tunisia and others that are advanced in water and sanitation development, can inspire countries in other regions.</li> <li>· AMCOW country Monitoring and Evaluation (M&amp;E) personnel should be involved in the design of WASSMO data management protocols.</li> <li>· Council meetings should be held at least one month before the end of the financial year, i.e., November rather than May as is currently required in the Rules of Procedures. This would allow the Secretariat to report on issues and present the subsequent year's work plan and budget for approval.</li> <li>· AMCOW should develop a strategy to collect contributions, including the suspension of such countries or any other measure deemed to be appropriate. The example of the UN was given, where countries with outstanding payments are denied voting rights until these are settled.</li> <li>· AMCOW should continue to hold Africa Water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· AMCOW should clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the different actors during the second phase of the WASSMO.</li> <li>· The TEC should ask AMCOW to address the following points at each board meeting:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Election of the President in the fourth quarter of the year (n-1) to consider the fiscal year of the Executive Secretariat.</li> <li>(ii) Election of the President before World Water Week, as this would allow the new President of AMCOW to be the champion during the Africa Focus.</li> <li>(iii) African Water Week should not be associated with the elective assembly of the AMCOW President.</li> </ul> </li> <li>· To ensure the sustainability of funding, AMCOW should consider the following means of compensation:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Direct support from the AU.</li> <li>(ii) The Member State's Ministry of Water should identify private companies to pay the country's contribution, with this amount then deducted from any taxes due to the Ministry. Annual contributions should be increased from countries in return for funding, e.g., 3% for water and sanitation support.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>





**Figure 4:** The sub-regional meeting for North Africa (Tunisia) in February 2020

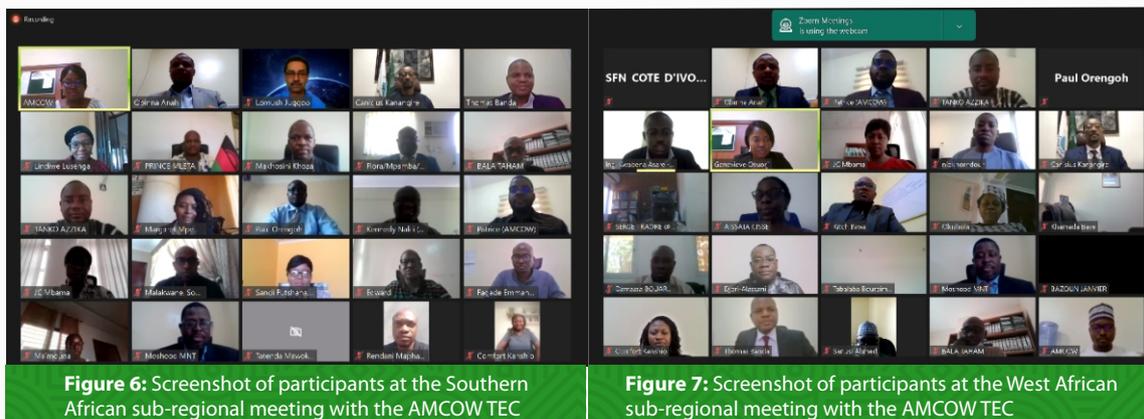


**Figure 5:** The sub-regional meeting for Central Africa (Gabon) in February 2020



The second set of sub-regional meetings were held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the various travel restrictions imposed across Member States. These ran from the 3rd to 30th September 2020 using AMCOW's Zoom platform, hosted by the Secretariat in Abuja, Nigeria. Each region took part for two days as follows: Southern Africa 3rd-4th (Figure 6); East Africa 7th-8th; West Africa 15th-16th (Figure 7); Central Africa 22nd-23rd; and 29th-30th for the North Africa region.

A general recommendation by the TEC based on all the sub-regional meetings of the Secretariat was to help member countries devise a resilience plan in case of future pandemics. Member States were encouraged to recognise that WASH interventions are critical in controlling the spread of COVID-19, and that adhering to prevention guidelines is vital. The outcomes of the meetings in relation to each of the objectives are presented in Annex A.



## The AMCOW Governance Framework

See Objective 4.4 and Outcome 4.4.1 (Box 1)

**A special session of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).** AMCOW held an additional virtual meeting of the TAC on 27th May, 2020, to provide information about the progress report for the quarter ending 31st March, 2020. A summary of decisions to be considered by the 12th Ordinary Session of the Executive Committee of AMCOW was also given. The TAC Chair, Mr. Jocelyn Bouyou Mavoungou, presided over the meeting of 15 TAC members, one AUC representative, and three others from the Member States. In his opening remarks, he commended the Executive Secretary and his team for their good work and management of the COVID-19 pandemic. Key recommendations from the TAC resulting from this meeting were: (i) that as far as possible, activities take place online rather than being cancelled; and (ii) that the EXCO renew the Executive Secretary's contract for a second and final four-year term.

**The 12th Ordinary Session of the Executive Committee of AMCOW.** This session was held online on 2nd June 2020. The Deputy Minister of Sanitation and Water Resources of Ghana and the AMCOW Vice President for Western Africa, Hon. Patrick Boamah chaired the meeting with several ministers or their representatives, TAC members and representatives of the AUC attending. The purpose of the meeting was to make any necessary changes for AMCOW to achieve its Strategic Plan 2018-2030. Several items were approved including AMCOW's Strategic Operational Plan 2020-2024, the Finance and HR Policies and Procedure Manuals, the 2018 audited report and the 2020 Annual Work Plan and Budget. The Camissa Multi-Stakeholder Statement on Achieving Access to Adequate and Equitable Sanitation and Hygiene for All and Ending Open Defecation in Africa by 2030 was also given approval. The TAC Sub-Committee on Sanitation was formalised so that sanitation could be given the attention it needs when making decisions, and finally, the Executive Secretary's contract was extended. Decisions made at the 3rd Session of the STC for ARDWE to abolish sectoral ministerial conferences and for ministerial conferences to be support mechanisms for the STC were also noted.

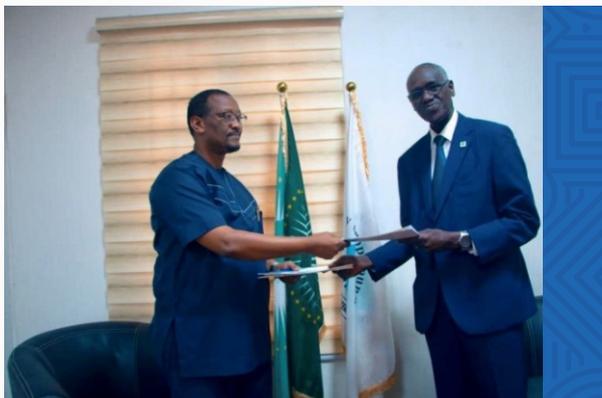


## 9th World Water Forum

See Outcome 4.1.3 (Box 1)

**Collaborating with the 9th World Water Forum.** Talks were held between the Executive Secretariat of the 9th World Water Forum and AMCOW in Abuja, Nigeria from 16th-19th February 2020. Under discussion were the preparation of the 9th World Water Forum, potential ways of working together, a plan to mobilise scientific and technical contributions from African states to the Forum, ways to deliver the outcomes of the Forum effectively, and how communication, information sharing, and outreach could involve all critical African water and sanitation players.

Based on these discussions, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed (Figure 8), with the Forum scheduled to take place in March 2022 in Dakar, Senegal.



**Figure 8:** Exchange of MoU signed between AMCOW and the Executive Secretariat of the World Water Forum

## Safely Managed Sanitation and Hygiene

The African Sanitation Policy Guidelines

The development of the ASPG is a three-year initiative funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Although this was originally scheduled to end in December 2020, it was delayed due to restrictions on face-to-face meetings caused by the pandemic. A six month no-cost extension was agreed with a new deadline of June 2021.

See Outcome 2.2.1 (Box 1)

**Sanitation in the media.** AMCOW worked with Speak Up Africa to organise a Communications, Advocacy, Policy, Opportunities and Outreach for Poop (CAPOOP) workshop in February 2020. CAPOOP members discussed the Sanitation Media Fellowship and the development of the ASPG. AMCOW and Speak Up Africa offered specialised training to at least ten media fellows on the enabling environment for sanitation in Africa, which also gave them a chance to meet members of other organisations and to learn more about the ASPG.

ASPG stakeholder consultations. An important part of developing the ASPG has been the stakeholder consultations (Figures 9 and 10) to explain the rationale for them. By creating awareness and ownership and gathering the views of a broad range of stakeholders, including Member States, the resulting product is more likely to respond to the needs of the African continent (Box 3). These meetings were originally planned to be held in 29 countries across the five African regions, but travel restrictions limited this to only 12 countries.

### Box 3: Feedback from the ASPG meeting in Nigeria

“There has been so much disorderliness within the sanitation sphere [in Nigeria]. Some people have programmed sanitation based on a very weak knowledge but now with the ASPG the whole sanitation landscape will have a [guiding] template; hence, every country will adapt its sanitation policy based on the ASPG and we can have common indicators for monitoring results and progress made towards achieving safely managed sanitation on the continent”

**Dr. Joachim Ezeji, WASH manager at USAID Nigeria**



Figure 9: ASPG consultation meeting in Liberia



Figure 10: ASPG consultation meeting in Nigeria



A total of 514 individuals (32% were women) attended the 12 meetings in Senegal, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Liberia, South Sudan, Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia (Figure 11).

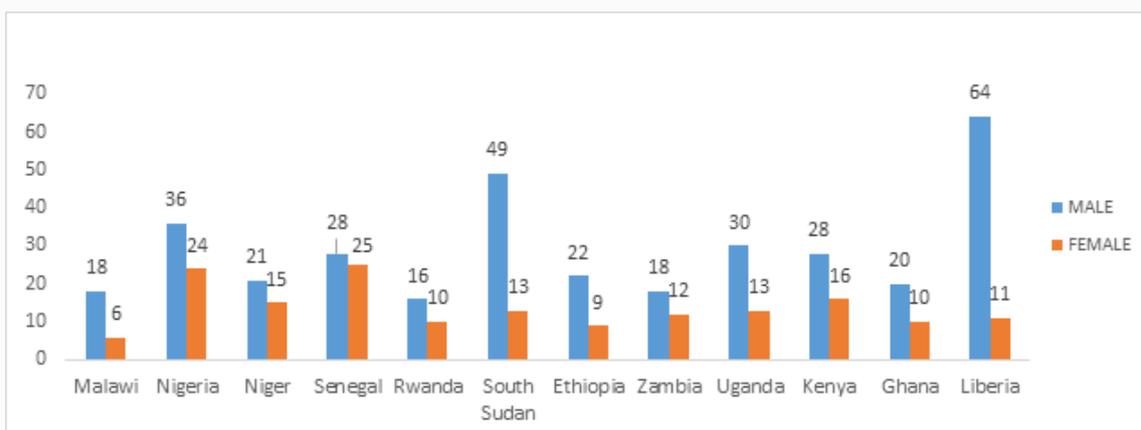


Figure 11: Total number of attendees at the ASPG consultation meetings

Stakeholders requested different types of capacity development support from AMCOW (see Table 2), and suggested some essential points for inclusion in the guidelines.

Table 2: Country requests from the ASPG consultation meetings

Number	Issue	Country											
		Ethiopia	Malawi	Ghana	Kenya	Zambia	Uganda	South Sudan	Rwanda	Senegal	Liberia	Niger	Nigeria
1	Support to mobilise and coordinate stakeholders												
2	Coordinate the support by CSOs and regional bodies												
3	Support to develop sanitation policies												
4	Guidance/support beyond policy development			X									
5	Establish a country support mechanism												
6	Monitor progress on sanitation policy development												
7	Advocate for increased funding												
8	Advocate to establish a sanitation lead agency												
9	Mobilise political support for policy development												
10	Communicate regularly on ASPG progress				X								
11	Promote learning and sharing of policy best practices				X								

A summary report from the country consultations was produced to feed into the ASPG and to serve as reference material for future interventions by AMCOW in specific member countries. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

Drafting the ASPG. AMCOW's ASPG is a tool designed to help African countries to develop new or update existing sanitation policies. A team of five African reviewers ensured that they are not only user-friendly but also address the real state of sanitation across the continent. The ASPG is now complete and has been given final approval by AMCOW. More information about the ASPG is given in Box 4 below



#### Box 4: The structure of the ASPG

Developed with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the ASPG aims to provide African governments with guidance on how to improve their existing sanitation policies or to develop new clear and comprehensive policies as the basis of a national sanitation strategy.

The ASPG is divided into four chapters. Chapter one is the introduction, providing the background, rationale, purpose, objectives, scope, target audience and applicability of the ASPG. Chapter two presents guidelines on the process of developing a sanitation policy. Chapter three describes suggested core elements of a sanitation policy. These include visions, principles and objectives, sanitation systems and service levels, hygiene, institutional arrangements, capacity development, financing, regulation, monitoring, evaluation, and review. Chapter four provides guidelines for developing a policy

## AfricaSan

**The United States Agency for International Development/Water for Africa through Leadership and Institutional Support (USAID/WALIS) AfricaSan Grant.** In June 2018, USAID/WALIS granted \$350,000 to AMCOW to support governance, financial management, strategic planning, performance management and human resources and for their leadership role of the AITF for a period of two years. The results of this are shown in Table 3.

**Table 3: Keys results obtained under the USAID WALIS grant**

Governance	Strategic planning	Performance management and human resources	Support of the AITF leadership role
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sanitation and WASSMO TAC Sub-Committees institutionalised</li> <li>Presidential Committee (incumbent, outgoing and incoming) institutionalised</li> <li>AMCOW's relationship with AUC formalised at 3rd STC of ARDWE</li> <li>AMCOW's sub-regional organs activated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AMCOW's 12-Year Strategy (2018-2030) developed and adopted by EXCO</li> <li>AMCOW's 5-Year Strategic Operational Plan (2020-2024) developed and adopted by EXCO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AMCOW's organogram reviewed and aligned to its 12-year Strategy</li> <li>Job evaluation and skills audit completed, and a Capacity Building and Change Management Plan put in place to address the gaps identified</li> <li>Staff Handbook and other HR related documents developed and adopted by EXCO</li> <li>Quarterly Performance Review meetings and SMT meetings institutionalised.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AMCOW's Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring and Reporting System and WASSMO framework and indicators reviewed and improved</li> <li>First and second editions of 2018 AfricaSan Ngor Commitments baseline report developed and disseminated to all Member States and key sector stakeholders</li> <li>39 individual country sanitation score cards and four sub-regional sanitation snapshots produced and disseminated</li> <li>Five synthesis papers (monitoring, policy, capacity building, finance, and inequality) from the thematic sessions of AfricaSan5 Conference in Cape Town, published on the AMCOW website, Knowledge Hub, and AfricaSan website</li> </ul>



The AfricaSan International Task Force (AITF). The AITF met several times to develop an action plan and a combined work plan of their activities for the three sub-committees (See Box 5). Their members helped to get stakeholder participation in the consultation meetings and the ASPG draft review sessions.

#### **Box 5: AITF Sub-Committee Roles**

The AITF was established by AMCOW to coordinate their sanitation efforts. It is made up of many experts in different areas of sanitation ranging from capacity building, sanitation financing, rural and urban sanitation, behaviour change, monitoring and evaluation, programme planning and implementation and management. At Stockholm World Water Week in 2019, the AITF restructured into three sub-committees to promote the roles and responsibilities of its members. These are now the Monitoring and Learning Sub-Committee (SML), the AfricaSan Advisory Committee (AAC), and the Country Sanitation Processes (CSP) Sub-Committee.

The objective of the SML is to help member countries to improve their national monitoring and reporting, with high quality data on their progress towards the Ngor commitments, and for AMCOW to make the case to high-level decision makers for informed decision-making and actions.

The focus of the CSP is to support member countries to achieve maximum impact on sanitation and hygiene by increasing their capacity through shared systems/mechanisms, by helping to develop or revise country policies, by creating the means to share knowledge and by offering capacity building programmes.

The AfricaSan Advisory Committee will work with the AMCOW Secretariat to provide technical and financial support for AfricaSan conferences up to 2030 and to position

## **Water Security**

The sections below cover the implementation of the Strategy 2018 – 2030 and the Strategic Operations Plan 2020 – 2024.

### **APAGroP**

A dedicated groundwater desk now exists with a newly recruited Desk Officer in Q2/2020 to lead on APAGroP.

**Coordinating groundwater players.** Collaborating with the AfWA, the Government of Uganda and other partners, the AMCOW Secretariat held several groundwater events at the 20th AfWA Congress in Kampala, Uganda from 20-27 February 2020. The focus was on the following thematic areas: (i) Formation of the APAGroP Working Groups; (ii) Africa Groundwater Policy Dialogue; (iii) Groundwater Governance; and (iv) Unlocking Groundwater: From Data to Knowledge. The overall aim of these events was to bring together all groundwater players (users, funding agencies, regulators, researchers, etc.) from Africa and beyond to discuss groundwater policy and practice in Africa and to raise awareness of the groundwater issue.

As a result, six action groups were formed (Box 6) to take forward specific activities at the 8th Africa Water Week (AWW-8) in Windhoek, Namibia in November 2021, and the WWF-9 in Dakar, Senegal in March 2022.

Supported by various partners including International Water Management Institute (IWMI), British Geological Survey (BGS), Skat Foundation, and Unlocking the Potential of Groundwater for the Poor (UPGro) Programme, the workshops were attended by over 600 participants in total, making this the most successful groundwater event ever convened in Africa. Partnerships between a diverse group of stakeholders were made, which are essential to bridge the gap between groundwater research, policy, and practice in Africa. A roadmap was designed for the rollout of the AMCOW Pan APAGroP, with Action Groups developing ideas for support tools, processes, and short-term deliverables in the lead up to the AWW-8 and the WWF-9.

**Working and Action Groups.** To kickstart the APAGroP, two online working group meetings in Q2/2020 and Q4/2020 reviewed progress on their work plans. It was decided to coordinate these plans across the working groups as this would achieve the short-term deliverables more effectively.



**Piloting the Country Support Tool (CST).** AMCOW organised partners to take part in a pilot of the Namibia Country Support Tool in collaboration with the Government of Namibia, the German Geological Survey (BGR) and the Southern African Development Community's Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI). The Namibia CST project was launched in Q1/2020 to provide technical support to the Government to exploit the full potential of groundwater resources for water security and resilience. At a cost of approximately €400,000, the CST project supports local and national institutions by investing in sustainable groundwater management across the country.

**Leveraging partner resources to support groundwater development.** Through AMCOW's strategic partnerships, the Friends of Groundwater-Africa and Friends of Groundwater-Global delivered some activities and events allied to the Kampala AfWA Congress in February 2020, including a two-day groundwater field trip, groundwater policy dialogue with the Secretariat leadership and TAC members, and workshops and seminars on a range of sustainable groundwater management topics. Various AMCOW partners have given approximately \$350,000 to support these events.

#### **Box 6: APAGroP Action Groups**

- ACTION GROUP 1: Policy, Governance and Institutional System Strengthening, including a high-level White Paper, transboundary groundwater management and urban groundwater management
- ACTION GROUP 2: Groundwater Country Support Tool and Measures
- ACTION GROUP 3: Capacity Strengthening, including on Drilling Professionalism
- ACTION GROUP 4: APAGroP Groundwater Knowledge Hub
- ACTION GROUP 5: Groundwater Resources Assessment
- ACTION GROUP 6: Unlocking Private and Public Capital in the Groundwater Sector

## **Monitoring Commitments**

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The M&E team continued to collect quantitative and qualitative data through record keeping, event feedback surveys, and training Secretariat staff on results-based project management to assess the performance of AMCOW programmes.

**AMCOW M&E Strategy.** The Secretariat developed a draft M&E strategy for monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on progress and the processes in place to achieve the objectives of the AMCOW Operational Plan 2020 – 2024. Detailed information on each performance indicator and a Performance Indicators Tracking Table (PITT) is included. Each reference sheet provides indicator definitions, the method of data collection, the relevance of the indicator to the result area, and other key characteristics. The strategy also covers the data collection protocol and data quality assessment to maintain standards when reporting against performance indicators.

**Results-based management/M&E.** In March 2020, AMCOW organised a two-day course to improve staff's M&E and results-based reporting skills. The exercise covered results-based project management, implementation and evaluation. During the course, AMCOW Secretariat staff were encouraged to collaborate with each other, to track projects' progress against specific milestones and targets, and to provide detailed reports on high-level project achievements.

**AfricaSan Ngor monitoring and analysis.** Following the need to automate the AfricaSan Ngor baseline monitoring and reporting process and develop a more comprehensive and synthesised reporting method similar to the WASSMO system, AMCOW revised its monitoring framework to be compatible with the WASSMO computerised system. It updated the guidance materials based on relevant feedback provided by Member Countries after the Ngor baseline monitoring. Also, AMCOW provided countries' focal points with audiovisual training on using the revised Ngor monitoring tools.



## African Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring and Reporting (WASSMO)

See Objective 7.1 and Outcome 7.1.1 (Box 1)

**WASSMO.** In July 2008, AMCOW was given a mandate by the Heads of State and Government Summit at Sharm el-Sheikh to monitor progress and report annually on the status of the water and sanitation sector in Africa. In response, AMCOW developed a Pan-African harmonised monitoring and reporting system in 2016, known as the WASSMO IT system. This has produced two reports since its inception. However, an AMCOW review of the 2018 WASSMO report revealed that the data quality submitted to the system was fundamentally flawed and could not be published.

AMCOW, therefore, reviewed the WASSMO system in 2020 and developed a roadmap and data protocol to improve monitoring and reporting on the Sharm el-Sheikh Commitments and SDG 6. This was approved by the WASSMOTAC and member countries and led to the following improvements:

- a reporting structure for synthesising the vision and sanitation indicators.
- the review of WASSMO indicators and reporting.
- the review and validation of the performance indicator reference sheet.
- recommendations for ensuring data availability and quality at country level.
- a road map for improved reporting.
- a data quality strategy.

**Approval of WASSMO Phase II.** The AMCOW Secretariat received a conditional grant approval notice from the African Water Facility (AWF) of €656,480 for the second phase of the Pan-African WASSMO. Over a period of two years (April 2020 to March 2022), it is hoped to increase staff training on monitoring and evaluation at the national, sub-regional and regional levels for improved systematic data collection, processing, and management. In support of phase II, the following have been put in place:

- There is now a Project Implementation Unit and a Programme Manager, working with the support of a newly recruited Information, Technology and Database Officer.
- The WASSMO Technical Committee has been appointed, with experts nominated by invited organisations.
- The WASSMO Technical Advisory Sub-Committee has been established.

**WASSMO Phase II Launch.** On 26th and 29th June 2020, in collaboration with the AWF of the AfDB, the inception workshop and project launch of WASSMO's second phase resulted in a monitoring and reporting system for the water sector in Africa. This virtual workshop was chaired by the President of AMCOW TAC with over 40 participants ranging from government representatives, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), TACs, and university representatives. This project has three components: (i) improving the Pan African water and sanitation monitoring and reporting system; (ii) increasing the capacity of stakeholders; and (iii) project management and reporting. The launch workshop recommended that:

- AMCOW should update the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the WASSMO Technical Committee and Sub-Committee on the frequency of meetings and the roles of different members.
- The Project Technical Committee should work with the Project Manager to ensure that the project implementation and performance plans include links between objectives and impacts.
- The AMCOW Secretariat should develop a draft concept note on how to work with the RECs and all other partners.
- AMCOW and the Technical Committee should develop the impact evaluation methodology.

### African Ngor Indicators and Baseline Report

An AMCOW report, *Is Africa on Track to Achieve the SDGs on Sanitation?* reviews progress made towards the Ngor Declaration on Sanitation and Hygiene. As an improvement to the first edition of the Ngor baseline report, which was used to inform the country dialogue session at AfricaSan5, online interviews were conducted with the SML, AMCOW TAC Sub-Committee on Sanitation, and AfricaSan focal points. The findings were then used to update the AfricaSan Ngor commitment baseline report, which is available [here](#).



# Improving data collection and reporting by Member States



## Improving data collection and reporting by Member States

See Outcome 7.1.2

In October and November 2020, there were virtual training sessions for 46 member countries (Figure 12) on how to monitor, collect, evaluate, and report progress on the Ngor commitments, with further sessions on Equality and Non-Discrimination/Leave No One Behind (EQND/LNOB). This compares to 39 countries included in the last campaign in 2018, in a move to target those lagging, especially in the northern region of Africa. The sessions equipped sanitation focal points and other stakeholders with the necessary skills to use an Excel-based monitoring system to report to the Secretariat in the second data collection campaign.



Figure 1 : Countries indicated in green that participated in the AfricaSan Ngor training

## Data collection and reporting

In consultation with Member States, it was agreed to create a National Coordination Platform (NCP). The idea of this is to bring together all stakeholders from relevant sectors, those in charge of national level data and key staff from the ministry in charge of water and sanitation. Using the NCP, coordinated and current data can be validated at the national level before inputting to the WASSMO system. It was also recommended at the October 2020 workshop that there should be specific NCPs on M&E (see Annex B).

**Coordinating data collection and quality control by the Regional Economic Communities and Lake and River Basin Organisations (L/RBOS).** At the October workshop, the RECs and L/RBOs were encouraged to participate in AMCOW programmes and projects, including APAGroP, the forthcoming Pan-African Transboundary Water Program (PATWaM), as well as AMCOW's other monitoring, knowledge management and information sharing initiatives. Based on an understanding of the importance of the L/RBOs and the RECs in developing Africa's water and sanitation sector, eight L/RBO representatives took part from the Nile Basin Initiative, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), OKACOM Southern Africa, Volta Basin Authority, Komati Basin Water Authority (KOBWA), Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel (OSS), Organization pour la Mise en Valeur du Fleuve Gambie (OMVG) and Commission du Bassin du Lac Tchad (CBLT) (Figure 13).

Mutual interests and priorities were identified at the workshop to take forward later in collaboration between participants. The best ways to achieve this collaboration between the L/RBOs and AMCOW were also discussed, with the Basin Organisations agreeing to link up with AMCOW's knowledge hub to share open-access information and resources for the benefit of both Member States and water sector users. The decisions made at the thematic meetings can be found in Annex C.





**Figure 13:** Screenshot of participants at the virtual meeting with the Lakes and River Basin Organisations

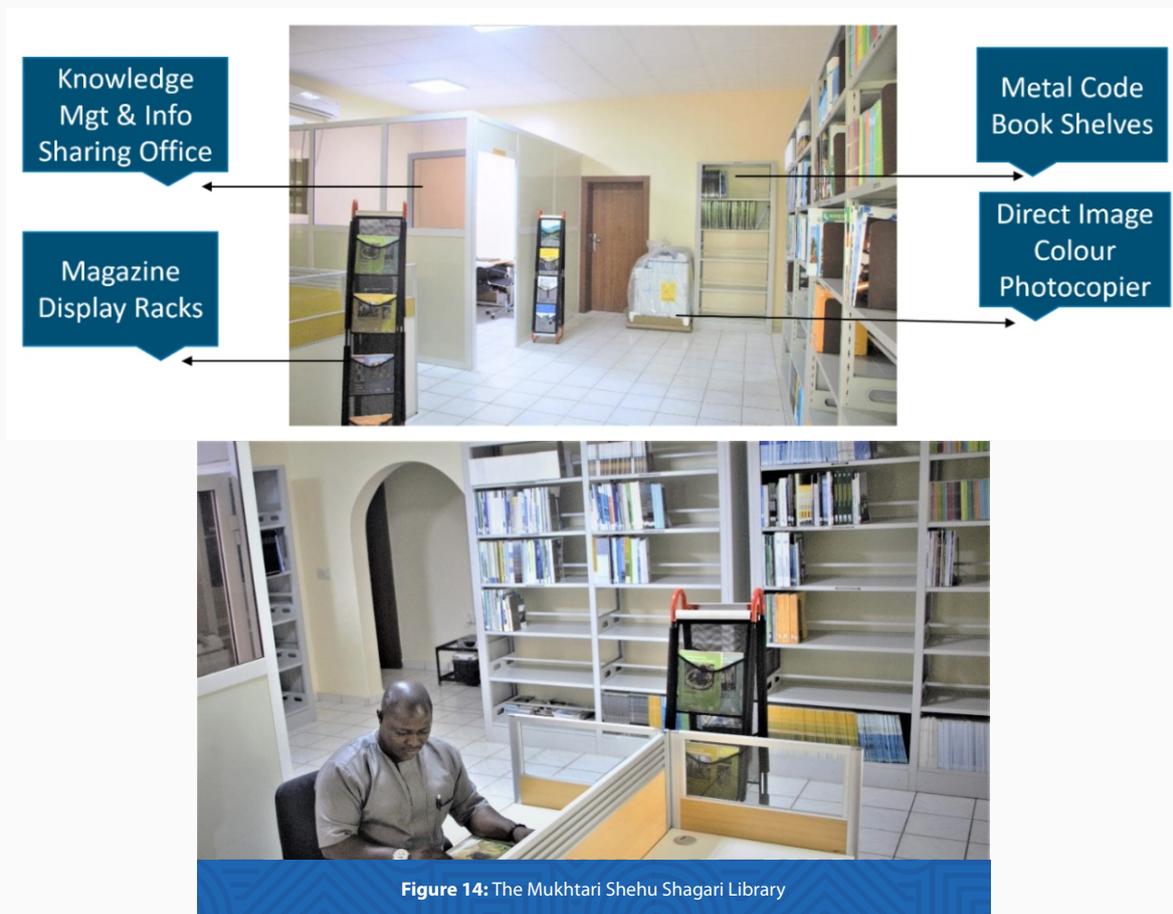
## Knowledge Management

Global Information Sharing

See *Objective 7.2 and Outcome 7.2.1 (Box 1)*

**African Heads of State and Governments at the Eleventh Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) in Sharm el-Sheikh, committed to improving information and knowledge management.** AMCOW has continued to develop the means to do this in Africa's water and sanitation sector. In February 2019, the AMCOW General Assembly approved its Knowledge Management Strategy 2017 so the Secretariat could complete its knowledge sharing platform as part of this mandate.

**The AMCOW Library and Information Centre.** In 2020, AMCOW opened a specialist water and sanitation library located in the Secretariat in Abuja, Nigeria. It currently houses 1,614 resources, which are uploaded into a database and organised using a combination of the Library of Congress Classification Scheme and a local system. The library (Figure 14) is known as the Mukhtar Shehu Shagari Resource Centre (MSSRC), in tribute to the first AMCOW President, Barrister Mukhtar Shehu Shagari.



**Figure 14:** The Mukhtar Shehu Shagari Library

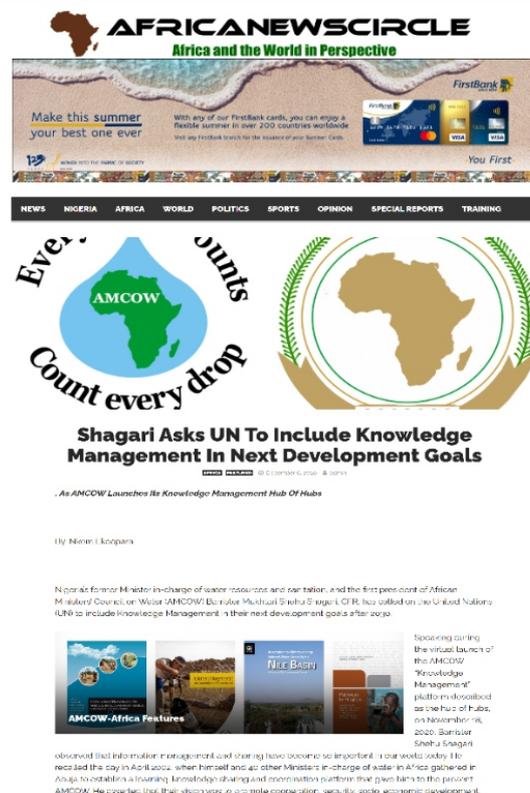


The library is well equipped having an HP large screen desktop computer, Local Area Network (LAN), air conditioning, an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) device, display racks and shelves, accessioning register, stamps, bookends, and a Bookeye 5 Professional Scanner. Five AMCOW Secretariat staff have been trained to use the book scanner (see Figure 15). This equipment and staff training will help digitalisation and document management and offers improved access by users to the resources on the knowledge hub.



**Figure 15:** Installation of the Bookeye 5 Professional Machine and staff training

**AMCOW Knowledge Hub-of-Hubs.** On November 18th, 2020, AMCOW launched its knowledge management tool – a virtual, open-access platform known as the Knowledge Hub-of-Hubs. This helps Africa's water and sanitation sector to collect, store and share information and knowledge and makes collaborative learning much easier. It also fulfils AMCOW's responsibility set by the Council's 2016 General Assembly to set up a knowledge exchange platform. There were 109 sector personnel at its launch, who demonstrated up to 80% engagement through their comments, questions, and suggestions. These were considered carefully and used to make the system more user friendly. Since the launch of the hub, water and sanitation partners such as UNESCO, British Geological Survey, USAID/WALIS, Global Water Partnership (GWP), and IWMI are interested in supporting AMCOW's future knowledge management initiatives (Figure 16).



**Figure 16:** News report of the launch of the knowledge hub





# Knowledge Products



## Knowledge Products

See Outcome 7.2.2 (Box 1)

**Water and Sanitation knowledge products.** Based on the experiences shared and discussions at the AfricaSan5 conference held in Cape Town, South Africa in February 2019, AMCOW produced five synthesis papers on best practice and learning, discussing critical issues facing Africa's sanitation sector. These are available to the public on AMCOW's knowledge hub and cover the following areas:

1. Sanitation, hygiene, and the SDGs: Leave no one behind deals with how to reach marginalised people to ensure inclusive sanitation programming in Africa.
2. Policies, institutions, and regulation looks at policies, institutional reforms, and regulations for networked and non-networked sanitation service provision in both rural and urban areas.
3. Monitoring and using evidence to improve hygiene and sanitation covers good practices from Africa, showing progressive improvement in tracking and reporting of sanitation at global, regional, and national levels. It also discusses setting up sanitation and hygiene information systems, the required investments for essential and safely managed services, assessing human resources needed, budget tracking and evaluating sustainability, and using data to develop products and services, such as emptying, construction and supply chains.
4. Building the capacity for sanitation in Africa looks at how the experience of WASH elsewhere and of other sectors can help develop the capacity for sanitation and provide lessons for African countries.
5. Financing sanitation in Africa shares success stories on learning about sanitation financing from other countries that could be adapted and used in Africa.

These essential papers are freely available on the AMCOW online platforms to improve the level of knowledge in Africa's sanitation sector. They are available [here](#).

## Working with Centres of Excellence

**The African Union Development Agency (AUDA)/New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Water Centres of Excellence (WCoE).** It was decided at AMCOW's General Assembly 2018 in Libreville, Gabon for the Secretariat to work with AUDA/NEPAD WCoE, to better understand the current state of knowledge, and the demand for additional skills and migration to strengthen the water resources sector at national and transboundary levels, and to promote youth employment.

A virtual meeting was held between AMCOW and AUDA/NEPAD WCoE on 19th October 2020 attended by four network coordinators and members of the Southern and Western Africa Networks and the African Union Commission, and seven AMCOW staff. AMCOW presented a summary of its work on knowledge management and information sharing, with the Centres of Excellence then also sharing what they are doing in this area. Guided by the African Union representative, Mr. Martin Bwalya, both the Centres and AMCOW agreed on future ways to collaborate on financial and human resources so that knowledge generation, management, and information sharing could be more effective. The decisions of the thematic meetings can be found in Annex D.

## 8th Africa Water Week (AWW-8)

The Secretariat has continued to plan for the AWW-8, hoping that the COVID-19 pandemic around the world will be over by 2021. During this reporting period, the Technical and Scientific Committee (TESCO) and the Strategic Advisory Committee (SAC) of the AWW-8 were formed to support the Secretariat with technical and strategic advisory services respectively. The TESCO comprises six sector professionals including AMCOW's Director of Programmes (the Chair), the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA) (co-Chair), and representatives from SIWI World Water Week, the SADC-GMI, UN Water, and the African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation. The SAC is also made up of sector professionals including the Executive Secretary of AMCOW, and partner representatives from GIZ (German Corporation for International Cooperation), the World Bank Group, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), and AfDB Group.



So far, the AMCOW Secretariat has worked with these two committees to achieve the following:

- Namibia has been selected as the host country according to AMCOW regulations for AWW conferences.
- The Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Republic of Namibia was consulted and engaged, and a Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretariat and the host government is expected to be in place soon.
- The initial dates of the conference were reviewed, and a new date of 8th-12th November 2021 proposed.
- The process of identifying a conference management consultant has begun.
- It was suggested to hold a pre-AWW-8 conference and partners have agreed to a series of mini-conferences beginning in January 2021 with the AMCOW-World Water Quality Alliance assembly, which will be held online on selected water and sanitation themes.
- AWW-8 themes and sub-themes are:

**Theme – Water Security for Development and Human Health**

***Sub-themes -***

- Water security and sustainable development
- WASH and human health with an emphasis on COVID-19
- Transboundary water management for cooperation and shared development
- Building Africa's resilience to climate change and related disasters
- Addressing water and sanitation sector enablers and drivers, including policy, capacity development, knowledge management, and financing.

<sup>1</sup>This is a top-ranking Spanish-language media outlet, with more than 65 million readers across all its editions -virtual and print. It is considered among the most influential media outlets across Europe. <sup>2</sup>This is an American daily newspaper published in Washington, D.C. It is among the most widely circulated newspapers in the Americas and the world, with an average readership of 70 million across their online platforms each month.



## Communications and Visibility

## Communications and Visibility

AMCOW now has new and innovative ways of communicating and sharing information for the development of Africa's water and sanitation sector. As part of the new communication strategy, the Secretariat launched its webinar series as well as 'The Calabash', AMCOW's first newsletter. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of access to water, sanitation, and hygiene in Africa. You can read below about some of the communication and visibility activities carried out during the year.

**AMCOW's media presence.** AMCOW needs to raise awareness of water and sanitation, while also raising its own profile. The Executive Secretary appeared on key global and national media including the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), and in articles published in the African Leadership Magazine. Links to these press releases are given below:

- "Dr Canisius Kanangire "Plus de 85 % n'ont pas accès à l'eau et au savon au sud du Sahara" - available at [<https://www.bbc.com/afrique/media-51999756>
- African Leadership Magazine - available at [African Leadership Magazine March 2020 Special Edition by africanleadershipmagazine - issuu](#)
- African ministers seek harmonised policies on sanitation - available at <https://thenationonlineng.net/african-ministers-seek-harmonised-policies-on-sanitation/>
- Open Defecation: Not our responsibility to build toilets — FG - available at <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/03/open-defecation-not-our-responsibility-to-build-toilets-fg/>
- ASPG: For an all-inclusive WASH policymaking framework in Africa - available at <https://www.africannewspage.net/2020/03/aspg-towards-inclusive-wash-policy-framework-in-africa/>
- AMCOW seeks hamonised policies on sanitation in Africa - available at <https://nnn.com.ng/amcow-seeks-hamonised-policies-on-sanitation-in-africa/>
- African Minister's Council on Water Initiative - available at <http://devnigeria.tv/2020/03/07/amcow-dev/>

An op-ed was also developed, which was covered by El Pais (accessible [here](#)). Following this release, the Washington Post requested an interview with AMCOW's Executive Secretary, which can be read [here](#).

**World Water Day.** As one of the key international events that highlight the importance of safe water, during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, it presented an opportunity for AMCOW to remind Africa and the world that access to clean and secure water, sanitation and hygiene is the most cost-effective way to prevent most public and environmental health challenges.

The Secretariat developed a call for action (in English and French), which was shared with 853 sector contacts, including government leaders, donors, civil society organisations (CSOs), universities, scientists, and citizens around the world, to prioritise the water and sanitation sector and work together to achieve universal access by 2030. This link can be found [here](#).

**Creating awareness of the African Sanitation Policy Guidelines.** The Secretariat organised a press conference attended by several journalists to launch the country consultations in Nigeria, resulting in several press articles including the following:

<https://thenationonlineng.net/african-ministers-seek-harmonised-policies-on-sanitation/>

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/03/open-defecation-not-our-responsibility-to-build-toilets-fg/>

<https://www.africannewspage.net/2020/03/aspg-towards-inclusive-wash-policy-framework-in-africa/>

<https://nnn.com.ng/amcow-seeks-hamonised-policies-on-sanitation-in-africa/>

<http://devnigeria.tv/2020/03/07/amcow-dev/>

<sup>1</sup>This is a top-ranking Spanish-language media outlet, with more than 65 million readers across all its editions -virtual and print. It is considered among the most influential media outlets across Europe. <sup>2</sup>This is an American daily newspaper published in Washington, D.C. It is among the most widely circulated newspapers in the Americas and the world, with an average readership of 70 million across their online platforms each month.

**Marking World Health Day and linking WASH with global health.** Each year, 7th April marks World Health Day, focusing on a health issue that deserves special attention. The tagline for World Health Day 2020 was 'Support nurses and midwives'. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it was an opportunity for AMCOW to emphasise that adequate water, sanitation, and hygiene are essential components of basic health services and public health. A statement by the Secretariat was shared on the AMCOW website and other social media platforms, such as Twitter and Facebook. Other key messages were shared on our social media accounts linked to at: <https://bit.ly/2Bd8JM4>

**Learning and sharing opportunities in Africa.** AMCOW organised a webinar series and virtual coordination meetings with Member States and other stakeholders to share information on different approaches used by the WASH sector in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, to learn from one another and work together across the continent. The first webinar on Improving Hygiene Services, the Foundation for Strengthening Public Health (Figure 17) was about the critical role of hygiene in eliminating diseases such as COVID-19, with participants learning about interventions by African countries to curb the spread of the virus. The webinar featured four presenters from the WASH sector, Dr Miriam Sidibe (Director Social Mission, Unilever), Mr. Ashrafedin Youya (Federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopia) and Mrs. Emma Mbalame (Ministry of Irrigation and Water, Malawi) and was attended by over 300 participants from 57 countries.

The second webinar on Why Water Security is key to ending hunger aimed to show how improving the management of water can help achieve food security in Africa and contribute to global food security by high-level policy making. The webinar attracted over 200 participants with the following speakers: Dr Agnes Kalautecibata (UN Special Envoy for 2021 Food Systems Summit), Dr Abebe Haile-Gabriel (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Assistant Director, Regional Representative for Africa), Dr Claudia Ringler (International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Deputy Director of Environmental and Production Technology) and Professor Moshood Tijani (AMCOW groundwater expert).



Figure 17: Advertising mockup of the webinar





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**AMCOW**  
African Ministers' Council on Water

Promoting access to water and Sanitation for economic development of the African people



African Union

Africa Sanitation Policy Guidelines

**Creating an Enabling Environment for Sanitation**



Webinar recordings and other materials can be found [here](#).

**The Calabash Newsletter.** In 2020, AMCOW's inaugural newsletter, the Calabash was launched (Figure 18). The first issue shared experiences of different African countries in the fight against COVID-19 using water, sanitation, and hygiene services. The Calabash has a distribution of about 5700 readers worldwide, mainly through Mailchimp and other social media platforms.



Figure 8: The Calabash first issue page

You can read issues one and two:

- First issue: [here](#)
- Second issue: [here](#)

## Income and Expenditure

In 2020, AMCOW continued to make progress toward financial sustainability, increasing its core funds through project management fees, conference registration fees, country contributions and various other sources. Total core funds received as of 31st December 2020 amounted to \$430,523, compared to \$298,042 at the same point in 2019 (an increase of almost 44%). In terms of investments and expenses, these were mainly used in programme activities, and the functioning of governing bodies and the Executive Secretariat.

The Annual Work and Budget Plan (AWBP) implementation rates were 31% for SIDA, 74% for BMGF, 95% for USAID/WALIS-AfricaSan, 98% for WSSCC, 98% for USAID/WALIS-OSS, and 5% for AfDB activities from January 1 to December 2020 (see Table 1).



Budget line	Budget (USD)	Amount disbursed as of Dec. 2020	Balance	Percentage of budget spent	Closing date
<b>SIDA</b>	4,000,000	1,232,454	2,650,851	31%	Dec. 2022
<b>BMGF</b>	2,996,231	2,211,868	687,733	74%	Jun. 2021
<b>WSSCC</b>	220,000	216,351	3,649	98%	Dec. 2020
<b>AfDB</b>	656,480	30,233	626,247	5%	Mar. 2022
<b>USAID/WALIS-OSS</b>	361,743	354,133	7,610	98%	Jul. 2020
<b>USAID/WALIS-AFRICASAN</b>	350,000	332,247	17,753	95%	Jul. 2020
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,584,454</b>	<b>4,377,286</b>	<b>4,207,168</b>		





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## Annexes

- A. Outcomes and Decisions of the 2nd Sub-Regional Meetings
- B. ToR for the National Coordination Platform
- C. Outcomes and Decisions of the Meetings of the Workshop with the RECs and Lakes and L/RBOs
- D. Outcomes and Decisions of the Meetings with the African Union Development Agency (AUDA), New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Water Centres of Excellence (WCoE)





## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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