PROVIDING WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES TO URBAN POOR IN AFRICA REGION

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- **A- Water and Sanitation Situation in Africa**

Currently, more than 30% of African population (330 Millions) lack access to safe water and adequate sanitation.

- **B- The African Water Association**

  **Established in 1980**

  **Objectives**

  - To coordinate the search for knowledge and up-date technical, judicial, administrative and economic data gathered in the area of Water Supply, Sanitation and the Environment;
  - To foster permanent exchange of information in all areas related to water supply and sanitation, particularly on research and implemented techniques;
  - To initiate, encourage and promote any actions of cooperation and exchange in professional training;
  - To promote contacts, exchanges and cordial relationship among professionals of the sector in Africa and throughout the world.
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African Water Association

Organs

• THE CONGRESS
• THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
• THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
• THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COUNCIL
• THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT
• THE COMMUNICATION UNIT

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AFRICAN WATER ASSOCIATION

Actions

• providing members with results of conducted studies, of research and enquiries in terms of water supply, sanitation and environmental sector.

• maintaining close ties with all regional, continental and international agencies devoting their time to water and sanitation issues.

• organizing congresses, colloquia, seminars, workshops and technical sessions.
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AFRICAN WATER ASSOCIATION

**Water Utility Partnership**
- Initiated in 1996, it is an African regional capacity building program with focus on urban poor water utilities
- Facilitating the increase in coverage of water supply and sanitation services
- Improving the quality of the service through increased investment and reforms of utilities
- Its priority objectives are:
  - Institutional reform of water utilities and sector policies
  - Operational efficiency of water utilities
  - WSS services to low-income urban communities and hygiene

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**Objectives:**
- Better understanding of what are called “good practices”
- Improving the access of low income populations to water and sanitation services

**Approach:**
- Conducting study gathering all the actors in the countries so as to discuss crucial problems
- Identifying the main challenges in terms of low income population supply
- Defining the practices and initiatives that could be useful for improving the supply

**Result:**
- Elaboration of document of case studies
- Recording about 36 initiatives and practices
- Data basis at the disposal of members via internet of WUP
-C- INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS IN WATER SECTOR IN AFRICA

Objectives
• increased access to safe drinking water and sanitation services
• enhanced economic efficiency (in the public and private sectors);
• improved quality of service;
• generation of financing for necessary investments (largely from third-party donors);
• Improved resource management; and reduction in the negative impact of service provision on the environment.

Types of Reforms
• Involvement of international groups in Private Sector Partnership (Concession, delegation contracts)
• Involvement of local national private sector participation
• Decentralization
• Competence transfer
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INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS IN WATER SECTOR IN AFRICA

Main obstacles

• Lack of political commitment

• Absence of a clear policy, legislative and regulatory framework

• The power of incumbent administrations

-D- PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION

The public sector remains the owner of all assets and acts as the regulator of the private operator.

Roles of Private Operator (vary according to countries)

• Management of the distribution network appears to be the most common task for private operators;

• Involvement in resource management and treatment are more limited.

• Private operators also tend to play a significant role in the provision of connections to customers,

• And are generally responsible for billing and collection of charges.

• In some cases, however, they have worked with the government in financing large-scale projects.
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- REGULATION

Main Organizational Options

• A central government department is responsible for regulating the services provided by public and/or private operators;

• The public company (usually the asset owner) responsible for some service provision also regulates the private operator's activities;

• An independent sector-specific public regulator is established, who monitors and regulates the activities of the private operators, and, in some cases, the public asset-holding company;

• An independent multi-utility public regulator is established, who monitors and regulates the activities of the private operators, and, in some cases, the public asset-holding company as well.

Main Tasks

• Monitoring the execution of all contracts, ensuring compliance with agreed standards of service and tariff limits;

• Monitoring tariff revisions, considering both the appropriate level and tariff structures;

• Penalising the private operator (and, in some cases, the public operator) where breaches of agreed performance standards are found;

• Setting revised performance standards at regular intervals.
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-F- RESULTS

For those countries who have undertaken major institutional reforms we have noticed very remarkable improvement as follows:

- Cost-efficiency improvements have been evident, although it will take some time for all operational and organisational inefficiencies to be eradicated.

- There has also been evidence of improved Operational efficiency resulting from significant reductions in water losses.

- Improvements in the organisation and management of the sector by central and local government bodies.

- Improvement of service coverage but still more has to come

- There is emerging evidence of improved customer satisfaction with the quality of service provided.

- The degree of cost recovery has improved significantly in some countries. This has arisen through revised pricing schedules and improvements in the rate of bill collection

Thank you.

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