

# SANITATION AND WASTEWATER ATLAS OF AFRICA





AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT





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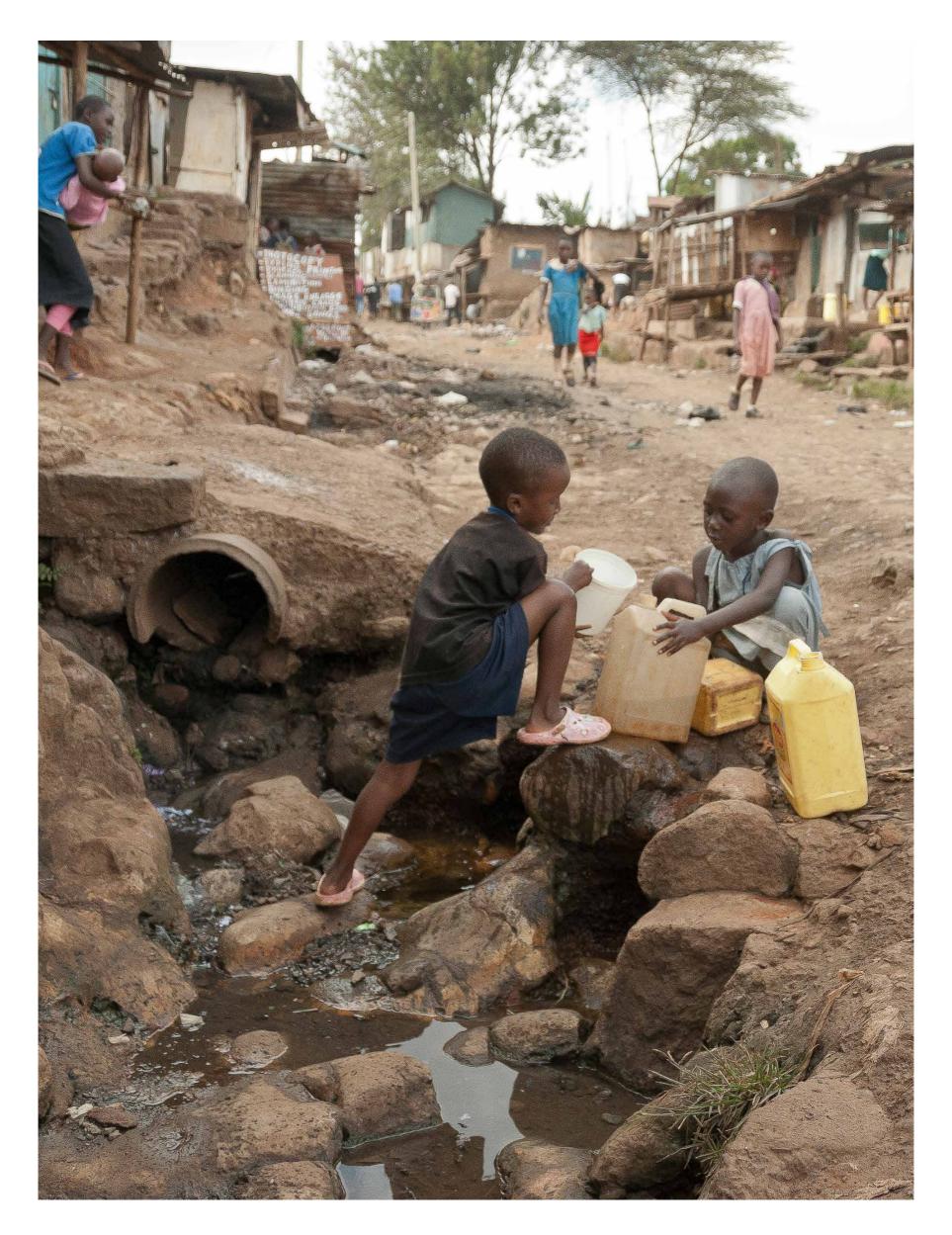
## **SANITATION AND WASTEWATER ATLAS OF AFRICA**











### Foreword

Sanitation, including the proper management of wastewater, is central to ensuring human and ecosystem health, and economic and environmental benefits. While significant efforts are being made across Africa to ensure better access and services, many places still have inadequate infrastructure for sanitation and wastewater management. This is happening at a time of greater need due to population growth, rapid urbanization, improving lifestyles, and industrial and agricultural expansion – all in a region that has low resilience to climate change.

This atlas – a joint effort by the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme, and GRID-Arendal – profiles the state and trends in wastewater management and sanitation delivery in Africa; highlights the human health and ecosystem impacts of poor sanitation and wastewater management; and discusses the continent's policy and institutional arrangements. It benchmarks Africa's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other aspirations, including Africa's Agenda 2063 and Africa's Water Vision 2025. The findings of the atlas will allow policymakers to track progress on sanitation and wastewater, making it a valuable tool to accelerate change.

The continent's efforts in this area are largely guided by SDG 6. Of particular concern are the sub-targets on access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene – paying special attention to the needs of women, girls and vulnerable populations – and improving water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and halving the proportion of untreated wastewater. However, all other SDG 6 targets are linked to Africa's aspirations, including those on universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, efficient water use and integrated water resources management. Other SDGs – including those for health, education, cities and industry – will be boosted by better sanitation provision and wastewater management. Providing adequate sanitation with proper wastewater treatment represents an opportunity to reclaim vital waste resources and lead the way towards the realization of a circular economy, as well as more sustainable services delivery. Solutions to increase sanitation coverage and improve wastewater treatment will help boost public health and secure the sustainability of Africa's natural resources. They can trigger investments in integrated wastewater management and offer employment opportunities while ensuring the integrity of water resources and water-related ecosystems. As the atlas discusses, industry and the private sector have a key part to play by investing in and innovating on solutions for sanitation and wastewater management.

We trust that the *Sanitation and Wastewater Management Atlas of Africa* will be of use to Africa's leaders, development allies and interested parties to guide and track the solutions needed to provide better sanitation and wastewater management services to Africa's people.



Knu

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### Acknowledgements

The Sanitation and Wastewater Atlas of Africa is the outcome of a collaborative effort by the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and GRID-Arendal. The three partners jointly fundraised for the preparation and production of the atlas, coordinated input from several players and provided technical support. The efforts by the three partners will not end with the atlas. Wide outreach will continue, taking advantage of the various networks that each partner brings.

The atlas is a result of the convergence of thought by Osward Mulenga Chanda and Maimuna Nalubega (African Development Bank), Thomas Chiramba and Birguy Lamizana-Diallo (UNEP), and Clever Mafuta and Bernardas Padegimas (GRID-Arendal), who acknowledged that part of the reason for the failure of the majority of African countries to meet their Millennium Development Goals was a lack of information that could inform policy direction. The atlas is therefore meant to benchmark Africa's progress towards key targets under the Sustainable Development Goals.

While acknowledging and appreciating the efforts of the three partners, it is important to note that big achievements are made through coordinated effort. The preparation of the atlas benefited from the expertise of several authors drawn from across Africa. The authors (see Appendix 1) provided draft content that went through several rounds of peer and government reviews. The peer reviewers (Appendix 2) were also drawn from across Africa. Two review workshops - held in Kigali, Rwanda, and Gaborone, Botswana - helped to fine-tune the content of the atlas through input mainly from government reviews (Appendix 3). Some case studies to support the chapters were compiled by scholars and researchers working on topics related to sanitation provision and wastewater management in Africa.

The process leading up to the printing of the atlas started in 2017 with the annual partners meeting of the African Development Bank, UNEP

and GRID-Arendal. At the meeting, the partners agreed on the draft outline of the atlas and a list of possible authors. The commissioned authors met in April 2018 and further refined the outline to avoid overlaps and gaps. Initial drafts of the chapters were prepared and then subjected to peer review followed by chapter revisions. In May 2019, the chapters were subjected to a government and peer review process through another workshop held in Gaborone. The chapters were revised before undergoing technical edit and later copy edit.

The atlas is one of a suite of products that also includes various online outputs, including policy briefs, an explanatory video, photo-rich stories, and a multimedia presentation with interactive maps. Funding for the production of the atlas and the ancillary products was made possible through the support of the African Development Bank, UNEP's Environment Fund and Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). The African Development Bank funding came from the bank's Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative, which was funded by the Governments of Burkina Faso, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, Switzerland and the Netherlands, as well as the Multi-Donor Water Partnership Programme, funded by the Governments of Canada and Denmark.

The atlas benefitted from copy editing by Strategic Agenda and cartography by Studio Atlantis and GRID-Arendal.

Many other organisations and individuals contributed directly and indirectly to the Wastewater Management and Sanitation Provision Project in Africa whose main output is the Sanitation and Wastewater Atlas of Africa. While efforts have been made to acknowledge their input, it may be that not everyone has been credited by name. Please accept this acknowledgement of your role in this important publication.





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