

Municipal-Supported Unsewered Sanitation Improvements for the Urban-poor in Sub-Saharan Africa

CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES

1. Introduction

1.1 About the African Water Facility

The African Water Facility (AWF or Facility) is an initiative of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW). Its overall purpose is to support African countries to mobilize and apply resources for the development of the water sector towards the successful implementation of the Africa Water Vision (2025) and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, (MDGs). The AWF is hosted and administered by the African Development bank (AfDB).

To achieve this goal, the AWF focuses its support on mobilising and leveraging resources to support the following strategic objectives:

- (1) Strengthen water governance;
- (2) Investments to meet water and sanitation needs;
- (3) Strengthening the financial base; and
- (4) Improve water knowledge.

The AWF wishes to implement a project portfolio under the Urban Sanitation Theme. The proposed project portfolio fits well into a number of the Facility's strategic objectives and areas of intervention, notably improving service delivery (enabling environment, access by the poor, promoting a variety of service providers, improving public utilities, promoting private sector involvement/entrepreneurship and improving performance of public utilities/municipalities); the possible leveraging of investment funds for sanitation; as well as knowledge generation and dissemination.

1.2 Background

Africa has the world's highest urbanization growth rate. It is projected that its urban population will roughly double to 750 million by 2030. With the exception of Northern Africa, the majority of the urban poor in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) live without basic services like potable water supply and improved sanitation. Only about 8 percent of the people in urban Africa use sewerage sanitation (Strauss, 2006), and universal sewerage is not attainable, even in the long-term. The JMP (2010) report shows that in 2008, about 255 million (or 84 percent) urban dwellers in SSA depended on on-site sanitation technologies consisting mostly of pit latrines, pour flush toilets and septic tanks; and the numbers are increasing. Open defecation is also common. Consequently, large quantities of faecal sludge (FS) are produced within the urban settlements.

If not managed properly, the FS threatens the well-being of both humans (especially children and the urban poor) and the environment. Current methods of facility-emptying and FS transportation are mostly unsafe. In addition, the removed FS is usually dumped into sewers or water courses illegally, thus affecting the environment. In most cases, the recipient water bodies (including groundwater) are the water supply sources for the towns. The fairly common reuse of untreated FS for vegetable cultivation in urban areas is usually unsafe. To reduce child mortality and improve the livelihoods of the urban poor, there is need to ensure access to, and use of, appropriate sanitation facilities that are hygienic, long-lasting and ensure proper containment of the FS; and that the FS is safely and economically transported (in case of off-site treatment); and that the waste is sanitized for reuse (or at least safe disposal).

1.3 Objectives and Scope of the BMGF and AWF Collaboration

The Facility wishes to strengthen its Urban Sanitation Portfolio (USP) focussing on the development and implementation of all components of the sanitation value chain (see Figure 1) so as to improve the living conditions of the unsewered urban-poor in SSA. This will be through the provision of affordable and sustainable sanitation services and technologies.

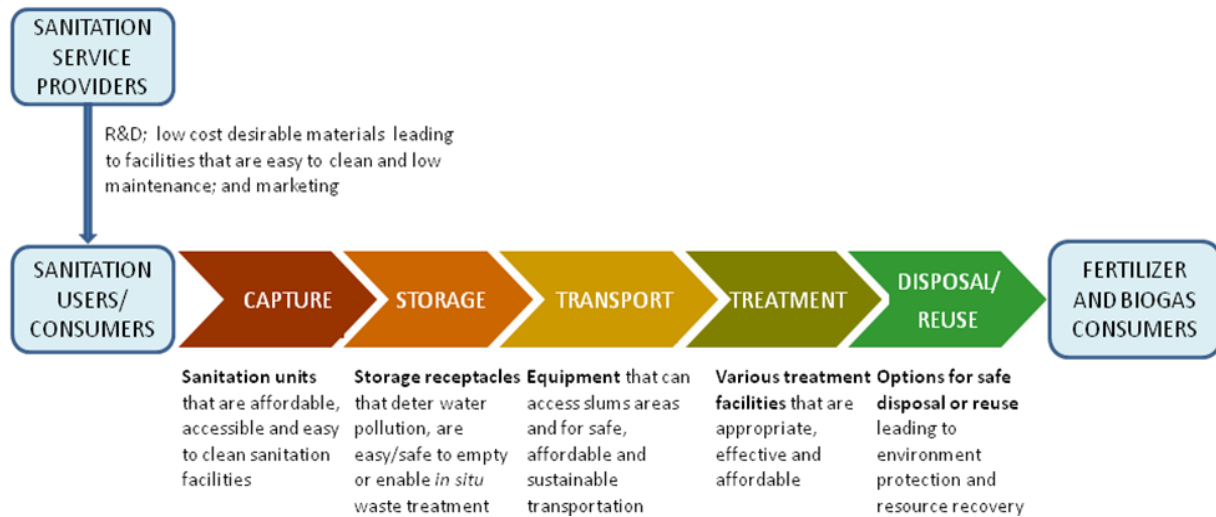


Figure 1 Showing the Sanitation value Chain and the various options for developing and applying sanitation technologies and materials

The Facility’s USP will promote the adaptation and wider application of tested sanitation approaches as well as the development of management and business innovations (service delivery and business models including franchising, contracting, innovative reuse approaches, marketing, etc.) leading to affordable and financially and environmentally sustainable sanitation services for urban poor communities in sub-Saharan Africa. Some, or all, of these components will be supported through projects arising out of this call for Concept Notes:

- Regular and safe emptying of sanitation facilities (may also include the design and management of private and communal facilities). The portfolio targets a 20 percent reduction in emptying fees for urban poor communities, as well as a 60 percent reduction in manual emptying;
- Efficient transportation of wastes (allowing for incentives and sanctions for proper transportation; as well as facilitation of decentralized treatment sites);
- Proper design, operation and management of treatment facilities (with different reuse options) compliant with environmental and economic sustainability considerations;
- Re-use in agriculture (land application), in aquaculture, as biofuel, electricity, biochar, etc.
- Co-management of sludge with other waste and non-waste related businesses to enhance the business opportunity and lead to improved financial sustainability.

The projects will be designed with the objective of testing known models and/or innovating and learning from different approaches for on-site sanitation services delivery for urban communities. The aim will be to provide sanitation systems that are hygienic and affordable to the urban while at the same time ensuring a financially and environmentally sustainable sanitation service provision/business models. This is envisaged to incorporate a fully integrated and sustainable FSM system with reuse. This will necessitate the involvement of various stakeholders to ensure that required institutional, technical and management aspects for sustainable sanitation services delivery.

The USP will incorporate a strong knowledge management component involving E-based and face-to-face peer-to-peer learning, ongoing backstopping support from the Facility and sanitation experts in the region, annual review events, as well as proactive synthesis and documentation of the processes, lessons and outcomes. The latter will be widely disseminated for possible replication.

Location: the projects will be implemented in various densely-populated urban-poor communes, as well as small to medium size towns relying mainly on latrines and septic tanks in sub-Saharan Africa.

Duration: The planned duration of each project will be between 24 months and 36 months.

Budget: the anticipated cost per project will be between € 800,000 and €1,200,000.

1.4 Purpose of this Call for Concept Notes

The main purpose of this call for proposals is to facilitate the selection process of potential grant beneficiaries that will implement the various interventions in line with the objectives of the Grant.

In addition, this call will facilitate AWF to:

- Identify interest and capacity of potential grant recipients
- Start the process of collation of ongoing interventions in Africa
- Prepare for a knowledge-sharing event that will take place after the evaluation of the Concept Notes

2. Application Guidelines for the Preparation of the Concept Notes

2.1 Who can submit Concept Notes

- i) Urban authorities and local governments in which municipalities or towns will be the lead Executing Agencies for the projects (potentially in collaboration with other stakeholders such as successful private operators, NGOs, private sector, etc.); or
- ii) Other urban sanitation service providers such as the private service providers and utilities, who may be interested (given their capacity and expertise) to collect, transport and/or treat faecal sludge from non-piped sanitation infrastructure. In this case, the project should be endorsed and supported by the municipality and integrated into existing municipal sanitation management plans.
- iii) Partnerships – various service providers may submit joint proposals in order to benefit from their combined strengths.

In order to be eligible for a grant, applicants must be legal entities based and operating in sub-Saharan Africa.

2.2 Application Procedures

- i) Interested applicants are invited to submit concise Concept Notes that should follow the Application Guide found in the Annex.
- ii) Questions for clarifications may be sent to Ms Akissa BAHRI via email at a.bahri@afdb.org.
- iii) Applications will be submitted electronically to Ms Akissa BAHRI via email at a.bahri@afdb.org and copied to Ms H ela SASSI at h.sassi@afdb.org
- iv) The deadline for the submission of the Concept Notes is **30 September 2011**.

3. Concept Notes Evaluation and Subsequent Plans

3.1 Review and Evaluation of Concept Notes

At the end of the CN submission period, CNs will be preliminarily reviewed for eligibility with respect to the Implementers and for adherence to the deadline and guidelines for preparation. The AWF reserves the right to reject CNs that are found “non-eligible”.

All eligible Concept Notes will then go through a technical evaluation by AWF staff, AfDB staff and external Technical Experts. Authors of the top-scoring 25 CNs will be invited at a knowledge-

exchange event. At the end of this event, about 12 potential applicants will be invited to submit full proposals. The proposals will undergo the Facility's review process for possible funding.

The following evaluation criteria and scoring will be used. Better CNs will receive higher scores. The maximum score is 100.

Concept Note Evaluation Criteria	Scores	
1. Relevance of the project	Sub-score	30
1.1 Relevance of the project to the needs of the urban area where the project is planned to take place.	10	
1.2 Relevance of the project to the needs of the urban poor.	10	
1.3 Relevance to the objective of the grant and to the purpose of this call for Concept Notes.	10	
2. Feasibility and Effectiveness and of the project	Sub-score	40
2.1 Assessment of the practicality and consistency of proposed activities in relation to the objective, budget, expected results and location. How much of the sanitation value chain is addressed?	20	
2.2 Assessment of how the proposed project will improve the situation of target groups and end beneficiaries; including the number of beneficiaries.	10	
2.3 Assessment of the role and involvement of all stakeholders and proposed partners in project implementation.	10	
3. Sustainability of the project	Sub-score	30
3.1 Assessment of the main assumptions and risks, before the start up and throughout the implementation period.	10	
3.2 Assessment of project sustainability after completion of the project, focusing on financial, environmental and institutional aspects.	20	
TOTAL SCORE		100

3.2 Notification of the AWF decision and Participation in a Knowledge Exchange Event

The Concept Notes will be ranked and authors of the top 25 CNs will be invited to participate in a knowledge exchange event at which ongoing activities in Africa as well as best practices and lessons in Africa and elsewhere will be shared.

All applicants will be notified in writing of the Facility's decision concerning their application. In case of rejections, the main reason(s) for the negative decision will be given.

3.3 Selection of Potential Grant Recipients and Preparation of Project Proposals

Based on the evaluation of the CNs and the proceedings of the knowledge exchange event, up to 10 Projects will be selected and invited to prepare full proposals for possible funding.

3.4 Proposed Timelines

	DATE	TIME (GMT)
Deadline for request for any clarifications from the AWF	9 September 2011	0800
Last date on which clarifications are issued by AWF	16 September 2011	1800
Deadline for submission of Concept Notes	30 September 2011	0800
Information to applicants on the outcome of the evaluation of the Concept Notes	28 October 2011	1800

Annex 1. Concept Note Preparation Guide

1.1. Instructions

This Concept Note guide ensures that the Evaluation Team has adequate information to review the concept and make a decision on its adequacy for further dialogue, with a view for possible funding.

- ✓ The Concept Note must be no longer than 6 pages (A4 size) using Arial 11 characters with 2 cm margins. The entire file should not exceed 2MB.
- ✓ Respond to the headings listed below, in the same sequence, paying attention to the importance of each section as related to the max scores in the evaluation table in section 3.1.
- ✓ Any charts, graphs or references should be added within the appropriate section.
- ✓ Provide concise responses to facilitate its assessment.

1.2. Content of the Concept Note

1 TITLE OF THE PROJECT

2 INTRODUCTION

Give a brief background to the preparation of the project; and, describe the key stakeholder groups, and partners plus any consultation undertaken with them.

3 SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

Please complete the following table. It should not exceed 1 page.

Location(s) of the project - <i>specify country and urban authority(ies) that will benefit from the project</i>	
Objectives of the project	Overall objective(s): Specific objective(s):
Service providers and other target group(s) - <i>who will be directly positively affected by the project at the project purpose level</i>	
Customers of services - <i>who will benefit from the project in the long term at the level of the society</i>	
Expected results	Key outcome(s): Main outputs:
Main activities	
Total duration of the project (<i>months</i>) and justification	
Requested Grant from AWF contribution	EUR
Co-funding and contribution by applicant(s)	EUR

4 RELEVANCE OF THE PROJECT

i) Relevance of the project to the particular needs and constraints of the target urban area(s)

- Identify clearly the specific pre-project situation in the target project area, including quantified data analysis wherever possible.

- Provide an analysis of the problems to be addressed by the project.
- Mention how the problems are being addressed at national and local level and specify any potential synergies

ii) Relevance to the objective of the Grant and to the Purpose of the Call for Concept Notes

- Describe the relevance of the project to the objective(s) of the grant and to the purpose of the call for Concept Notes. What will be the specific results of the project?
- Specify which elements of the sanitation value chain will be addressed by the proposed project.

iii) Describe and define the target groups and final beneficiaries

- Describe the target groups and final beneficiaries, as well as their selection criteria; including quantified data analysis wherever possible.
- Identify the needs and constraints of each of the target groups and final beneficiaries.
- Show how the proposal addresses the needs and constraints of the target groups and final beneficiaries.
- Explain how the target groups and final beneficiaries will be involved in the project.

5 FEASIBILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT

- Assess the suitability and consistency of the proposed activities in relation to the location, objective, expected results and budget.
- Assess how the proposed project will improve the situation of the urban poor as customers of improved services and end beneficiaries.
- Discuss how affordability issues will be taken into account.
- Tabulate the role and involvement of all stakeholders and proposed partners in project implementation.

6 SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

- Assess the main assumptions and risks.
- Assess the project sustainability after completion of the project, focusing on institutional, financial and environmental aspects.
- Show how the project activities will be scaled-up and replicated.

7 ADDED VALUE OF THE PROJECT

Specify any specific added value elements, such as promotion of pro-poor public-private partnerships, innovations and best practices and cross-cutting issues such as environmental issues, promotion of social and gender equality, needs of disabled people as well as rights of minorities, and climate change resilience.