



Press Release

For immediate release

## African Water Facility supports peace-building in Darfur through improved access to water and sanitation

**Tunis, 2 February 2012** – About 750,000 people in three Darfur states will have improved access to water supply and sanitation through a €3.3 million [African Water Facility](#) grant approved by the African Development Bank (AfDB) on 26 January 2012.

The grant will finance the preparation of bankable investment plans to leverage the \$100 million in financing required to meet the medium and longer term water and sanitation needs of the inhabitants in 15 to 20 towns in Darfur, as well as neighbouring pastoralists and nomadic peoples. The AWF grant will also be used to undertake priority rehabilitation works and to demonstrate integrated approaches to meeting domestic, institutional, commercial livestock and small-scale farming, water and sanitation needs in about six of these towns.

The project will also address the other key factor resulting in the inequitable distribution of water in Darfur, namely, weak institutions and lack of resources to manage, operate and maintain water infrastructure, by building the capacity of the State Water Corporations and communities in the model towns to sustainably manage their investments and their water resources, and to effectively deliver water and sanitation services.

*“This project aligns with AWF’s mid-term strategy where it commits to strengthen support to fragile or conflict-affected countries, often prone to water-related clashes given their limited means to manage water issues”* said Sering Jallow, AfDB Director, Water and Sanitation department. *“The grant is expected to have ripple effect by preparing the ground for additional investment to support the people of Sudan”*

As a result of the planned interventions, the project will contribute to sustainable recovery and lasting peace in the Darfur region by ensuring equitable access to water resources to meet all water needs.

*“The approval of this project marks a significant contribution by the African Water Facility towards resolving the ongoing peace building efforts in Darfur”* said Elfatih Mohamed Khalid, executive director for Sudan. *“Access to water for all segments of the people is no doubt fundamental in bringing about a constructive resettlement of internally displaced people of Darfur.”*

### **About the African Water Facility (AWF)**

The African Water Facility is an initiative of the African Ministers’ Council on Water, managed and hosted by the African Development Bank. Established in 2004, it assists African countries to meet the goals and targets for the water and sanitation sector set by the 2015 Millennium Development Goals and Africa Water Vision 2025. The Facility provides grants to a wide range of water projects to attract potential investors, enhance water governance and promote water related information and knowledge. To date, the Facility has approved 70 projects valued at €82.3 million, with its support spreading across 50 countries through both national and regional projects, including most of Africa’s Fragile States. Of the total approved, 22 have been completed and have cumulatively generated €420 million in downstream investments, bringing the average leveraging ratio to about 1:20. For more information, visit [www.africanwaterfacility.org](http://www.africanwaterfacility.org)

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