



Press Release

For immediate release

African Water Facility Grant Helps Kenyan Pastoralists Build Resilience to Droughts, Climate Change

Tunis, 9 August 2012 – An estimated 150,000 people from pastoral communities, including students and teachers from six schools based in Kenya's Baringo, Kiambu West and Laikipia districts, are to benefit from a €690,000 grant from the [African Water Facility](#) (AWF) approved by the AfDB on Friday, July 6.

The grant will support a Kenya Rainwater Association (KRA) pilot program designed to help communities build resilience to droughts and adapt to climate change through Integrated Rainwater Harvesting Management (IRHM), with potential for greater reach in the Horn of Africa.

More specifically, the AWF grant will be used to finance the implementation of the pilot's various activities in Kenya's three semi-arid districts, including RHM infrastructure development for domestic and productive use; the utilisation of complementary water harvesting technologies to improve livelihoods and generate income; knowledge sharing between community members; and policy advocacy based on tangible benefits and impacts to encourage government and development partners to scale up at national and regional levels.

"This pilot promises to help some of the most vulnerable and isolated communities better manage rainwater to reduce the known severe water stress experienced in the drylands and to achieve water security," said Akissa Bahri, Coordinator of the African Water Facility. *"We hope the results will serve as reference for governments to scale up to reach more communities and improve their lives and livelihoods."*

Details of the project's activities involve:

- Raising awareness in the communities on rainwater harvesting techniques to cope with extreme water, hygiene and sanitation conditions;
- Promoting an improved water management model for improved yields and crop diversification;
- Applying watershed conservation and rangeland rehabilitation to minimize conflict over water;
- Installing water tanks for roof catchment and farm ponds for surface runoff;
- Constructing separate ventilated improved latrines for boys and girls; and
- Promoting good hygiene practices such as hand-washing with soap before meals and after using latrines.

The Kenya project is one of six case studies conducted in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda designed to evaluate the performance of rainwater harvesting systems in the region with the aim of promoting "best practices" in water management for improving water supply and food security.

The Kenya project will be implemented by the Kenya Rainwater Association (KRA), the Government of Kenya and targeted communities.

About the African Water Facility (AWF)

The African Water Facility (AWF) is an initiative of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB). Established in 2004, the AWF helps African countries meet the goals and targets for the water and sanitation sector set by the Millennium Development Goals 2015 and the Africa Water Vision 2025. Its mission is to mobilize resources to build the financial base necessary to multiply water projects designed to ensure water, food and energy security in Africa, in a context of sustainable and inclusive growth. The Facility also works toward improving water resources governance, as well as the growth and exchange of water knowledge. Since 2006, AWF has funded 69 national and regional projects in 50 countries, including most of Africa's fragile states. It has mobilized more than €420 million as a result of its project preparation activities, which constitute 70 percent of its portfolio. On average, each €1 contributed by the AWF has attracted €20 in additional follow-up investment. For more information, visit www.africanwaterfacility.org.

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