

## Press Release | For immediate release

### The African Water Facility catalyses the development of waste management businesses to improve sanitation services in Arba Minch, Ethiopia

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 1 July, 2015** – The [African Water Facility](http://www.africanwaterfacility.org) (AWF) announced on Wednesday 1 July, 2015, that it is providing a 1.2 million grant to the Government of Ethiopia to improve sanitation and fecal waste management in Arba Minch. The project will benefit over 21,000 people who will have access to improved toilet facilities. It will also boost local agriculture through the provision of new and affordable fertilizer.

Specifically, the project will focus on improving and increasing the various public and private services provided along the sanitation value chain, from waste collection, to transportation and processing. This will be done by helping small private businesses better leverage the income potential of the sanitation business and earn additional profits from the sale of the byproducts of urine and fecal waste as bio-gas and fertilizer.

“The African Water facility is spearheading new ways of looking at sanitation provision in Africa,” said Ag Coordinator Jean Michel Ossete. “In the past, the focus was on increasing sanitation coverage, with much less attention placed on the downstream processes of collection and handling of waste. By looking at waste as a resource, sanitation provision becomes a much more viable, effective and financially attractive enterprise.”

In addition, sanitation awareness and social marketing activities will be organized within the community and farmers’ associations to increase the demand for improved toilets and sanitation services and compost from waste, as a way to stimulate the consumer market. Training will also be provided to municipal institutions with a focus on sanitation planning to ensure the adoption of appropriate procedures, methodologies and tools to ensure the sustainability of the new sanitation system.

This project will help the municipality of Arba Minch address urgent sanitation needs at a time when its basic infrastructure and service levels are still largely inadequate, leaving more than half of the population without access to improved toilet facilities. Arba Minch – with a population of around 100,000 people – is among the fastest growing towns of Ethiopia. The project will help increase water supply and sanitation service provision in the area, streamline interventions, build capacity from both public and private stakeholders, and meet critical infrastructure gaps.

-END-

- **About the AWF** [What we do](#) | [Grants](#) | [About AWF](#) | [Press room](#) | [Blog: Water Reflections](#)
- **Stay connected:** [www.facebook.com/africanwaterfacility](http://www.facebook.com/africanwaterfacility) | [www.twitter.com/AWFbroadcast](http://www.twitter.com/AWFbroadcast) | <http://www.linkedin.com/>



About the African Water Facility (AWF): The AWF is an initiative of the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW) hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB), established in 2004 as a Special Water Fund to help African countries achieve the objectives of the Africa Water Vision 2025. The AWF offers grants from €50,000 to €5 million to support projects aligned with its mission and strategy to a wide range of institutions and organizations operating in Africa. Its three strategic priority activities are (1) preparing investment projects to mobilize investment funds for projects supported by AWF; (2) enhancing water governance to create an environment conducive for effective and sustainable investments; (3) promoting water knowledge for the preparation of viable projects and informed governance leading to effective and sustainable investments. Since 2006, AWF has funded 98 national and regional projects in 52 countries, including in Africa’s most vulnerable states. It has mobilized more than €1.4 billion 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 €35 in additional follow-up investments.

The AWF is entirely funded by Algeria, Australia, Austria, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Burkina Faso, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, France, the Nordic Development Fund, Norway, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the African Development Bank. The AWF is governed by a Governing Council representing its 16 donors, UN-Water Africa, the AU via NEPAD, AMCOW and the AfDB.