

## Marondera, a pilot city for Integrated Urban Water Management in Zimbabwe

**Abidjan, Ivory Coast, 8 February 2016** – Marondera city (Zimbabwe) will reach universal access to drinking water and sanitation by 2025 thanks to a new project by the African Water Facility (AWF). This EUR 2-million grant to the Government of Zimbabwe will help develop an Integrated Urban Water Management Masterplan (IUWM) for Marondera.

**Marondera, a city of the future.** Equipping Marondera Municipality with an innovative integrated planning approach will ensure the sustainable management of water and sanitation services for Marondera's population. The approach will be applied to Marondera as a pilot for future water management in other Zimbabwean municipalities. The project will also address some of the city's immediate water and sanitation infrastructure needs. It will also enhance the government's and key stakeholders' capacity to implement and sustainably maintain water and sanitation facilities. The town, approximately 70km east of Harare capital city with a population of 65,000 inhabitants, is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest community in Zimbabwe. But unlike its contemporaries, it has not yet received adequate external support to revamp its water supply and sanitation services since the start of the economic recovery programme of the country in 2009.

**Impacts.** Increased access to improved water supply and sanitation services will improve public health for the population of Marondera. Diarrhea morbidity among under-five children is expected to drop from 7.2‰ (2010) to less than 5‰ in 2020. Access rate to drinking water and to sanitation will reach 100% by 2025 as against current respective rates of 77% and 63%.

**Challenges.** Zimbabwe drinking water indicators have declined over the past years, from 79% in 1990 to 77% today. Sanitation has followed the same trend: 63% today as against 67% in 1990. In Marondera, 97% of the properties are directly connected to the municipal water supply network. However, they do not benefit from a 24 hours supply service, due to power cuts and the water system's poor performance. The sanitation situation is even worse. Although 91% of the properties in the town have access to a toilet, most of the collected sewage is not being treated. The town had a very good sewer network, which is now suffering from overloading and lack of maintenance.

**Partners.** The total cost of the integrated urban water management master plan for the city of Marondera is estimated at EUR 2.3 million of which 2 million will be funded by the AWF. The Global Water Partnership and the Government of Zimbabwe will respectively finance 7% and 8% of the total project cost. The project duration is estimated at 30 months.

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**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.