In February 2021 during the 34th Ordinary Session Assembly of the African Union, African Heads of State and Government adopted the Continental Africa Water Investment Program (AIP), as part of the second phase of the Africa Union Development Agency’s Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa Priority Action Plan (PIDA PAP2, 2021-2030). The AIP SDG Water Investments is one of the support programmes of the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme.

The overall objective of the AIP SDG Investments support programme is to promote the integration of SDG water investments into planning, decision-making and implementation of SDGs on energy, food, ecosystems, and health while also aligning with COVID-19 economic recovery plans. The programme will foster an integrated water and sanitation-health-energy-food ecosystem nexus approach and address constraints in policy, governance, and institutional capacity bottlenecks.

The AIP SDG Investments Support Programme assists countries to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 of clean water and sanitation for all, while contributing to the achievement of water-related SDG targets in health, energy, food and ecosystems and boosting job creation interventions. The support programme addresses the functional gap that planning, investment, decision making and institutional processes of ongoing and new SDG 6 investments on water and sanitation are not coordinated with water related interventions in health, energy and food security - this undermines job creation and inclusive economic growth.

**Outcomes 2025**

- **USD1 billion** in SDG water-related investments leveraged from bilateral, multilateral and private sources
- **Over 30 approved investment plans and priority action plans developed and under implementation**
- **3.6 million** people benefit from improved governance, coordination and implementation of SDG6
- **Investment in water and sanitation integrated into COVID-19 recovery efforts and investment plans**
- **Over 50 water-related policies, laws, institutional arrangements, and related management instruments incorporating Integrated Water Resource Management and Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus approaches adopted**
- **Over 30 approved investment plans and budget commitments associated with policies, strategies and plans, integrating water and sanitation with health, energy, and food security**
AIP SDG Water Investments Support Programme Components

**01 CATALYSE** leadership and commitment for coordinated investments in SDG6 and other water-related SDGs.

**WORK PACKAGE 1:** Catalyse a shared vision, backed by political commitment and leadership, for integrated policies, legislation and enhance enabling environment to advance SDG investments in water and sanitation, health, energy and food security.

**WORK PACKAGE 2:** Support institutional and social change to identify and overcome the systemic barriers to synergetic SDG investments in water and sanitation, health, energy, and food security.

**WORK PACKAGE 3:** Develop a business and investment case and contribute to fiscal policy and investment climate for coordinated financing for SDG6 and other water-related SDGs, including by aligning with COVID-19 economic recovery plans, while boosting employment creation and inclusive growth.

**02 MOBILISE** partnerships and develop capacities and knowledge for improved coordination, governance, and decision making of water-related SDG investments.

**WORK PACKAGE 4:** Map practices, policies, regulations, and undertake stakeholder analysis on water governance, alignment, and reporting of SDG6 and other water-related SDGs targets.

**WORK PACKAGE 5:** Develop capacities of key institutions and stakeholders to enhance coordination and planning of SDGs investments on water and sanitation, health, energy, and food that contribute to employment creation and growth.

**WORK PACKAGE 6:** Develop an AIP Water Investment Scorecard and knowledge products for improved governance and investment decision making on SDG6 and other water-related SDGs targets.

**03 ACCELERATE** implementation of synergetic SDG Water investments in water and sanitation, health, energy and food that contribute to employment creation and inclusive growth.

**WORK PACKAGE 7:** Develop national investment programmes and action plans with coordinated SDG investments in water and sanitation to achieve health, energy, and food related targets that contribute to employment creation and growth.

**WORK PACKAGE 8:** Accelerate the implementation of prioritised synergetic SDG investments in water and sanitation to boost achievement of health, energy, and food-related targets that contribute to employment creation and inclusive growth.

**WORK PACKAGE 9:** Establish responsive monitoring evaluation frameworks, experiential learning programme coordination.

Programme scope

The AIP SDG Investments Support Programme will provide a continental platform for prioritised countries to be supported with cross-regional and continental knowledge exchange, capacity building, resource mobilisation, and targeted support to unlock bottlenecks and accelerate implementation coordinated plans for SDGs on water and sanitation, health, energy and food.

A total of 18 countries will be supported by 2025

- Countries which will report on SDG 6.5.1 (status of Integrated Water Resource Management and which may be supported by the AIP SDG Investments Supported Programme): Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo Brazzaville, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, Tunisia, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia
The AIP SDG Investments Support Programme is executed by the Global Water Partnership (Executing Agency), Country Governments, the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD, the African Development Bank, Sanitation and Water for All, UNICEF, the African Ministers’ Council on Water, UNEP-DHI Centre on Water and Environment, and other partners.

The programme is implemented with technical support and backstopping from the AIP Secretariat, hosted by Global Water Partnership Africa Coordination Unit.

### AIP Theory of Change

**IMPACT**

$30 billion SDG 6 Investments leveraged, and 5 million jobs created by 2030

**GOAL**

Transform and improve the investment outlook for water security and sustainable sanitation for a prosperous, peaceful equitable society

**AIP SUPPORT PROGRAMMES**

- **Component 1:** Accelerate preparation, financing and implementation of regional and transboundary water investments
  - AIP Transboundary PIDA Water Investments

- **Component 2:** Mobilise partnerships for gender transformative climate resilient water investments
  - AIP WACDEP Gender Investments

- **Component 3:** Catalyse implementation of coordinated SDGs on water & sanitation-health-energy-food-ecosystems
  - AIP SDG Water Investments

**COMPONENTS**

- **Strengths enabling environment for project preparation, planning and financing of regional, transboundary water investments**

- **Strategic Objectives**
  - Promote gender-transformative planning, decision-making and institutional development for climate resilient water investments in Africa.

- **Barriers**
  - Planning, investment decision-making and institutional processes for water climate development investments are not gender transformative
  - Gender inequalities in project preparation development and implementation of water, climate development investments

**WATER INVESTMENT GAP**

$64 Billion/year

Across Africa, delivery of investments in water infrastructure, information and institutions remains below targets required to meet economic growth objectives and social needs of the continent

**BARRIERS**

- Project preparation, financing and implementation of bankable transboundary and regional water projects is slow

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## The AIP at a glance

<table>
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<th>Scope</th>
<th>Africa: At least 18 Countries and 5 River Basins</th>
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<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>2020-2030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal</td>
<td>To transform and improve the investment outlook for water security and sustainable sanitation for a prosperous, peaceful, and equitable society</td>
</tr>
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### Overall Objective
The objective is to enhance job creation through gender sensitive investments in water security, sustainable sanitation, industrialisation, and climate resilient development.

### Impact
- $30 billion leveraged by 2030 towards climate resilient water and sanitation related investments
- 250 million people benefit from resilient water investments and economic opportunities
- 4 million indirect jobs for vulnerable, poor youth, women and girls
- 1 million direct jobs created through climate resilient water and sustainable sanitation

### Targeted Outcomes
- Regional, national water investment programmes developed and under implementation
- African Union governance framework for water-health-energy-food-ecosystem nexus adopted
- AIP Water Investment Scorecard developed and operationalised
- Business cases for water investments and profile of water in economy strengthened
- Job Creation Toolkit developed and operationalised by the African Union Development Agency
- Gender transformative investments in water, climate, and development developed and integrated in national development and Covid-19 economic recovery plans
- Bankable water projects prepared, and finance leveraged at transboundary and national level
- Delivery of critical water infrastructure accelerated, addressing the water-health-food-ecosystems nexus and meeting the needs of water dependent growth sectors and the poor

### AIP Support Programs and strategic objectives
- **AIP Transboundary PIDA water investments**
  - Accelerate project preparation, finance and implementation of regional, transboundary water investments
- **AIP Water Climate Development and Gender (AIP WACDEP-G)**
  - Mobilise partnerships and implement gender-transformative investments in water climate development
- **AIP SDG Water Investments**
  - Catalyse commitment and leadership for coordinated climate resilient SDG water investment toward inclusive growth, jobs and Industrialisation

### High Level International Panel for Climate Resilient Water Investments in Africa
- Mobilise high level political commitment and leadership for water investments, peace and security

### Activities
- Establish a high-level international leadership Panel and mobilise political commitment for climate resilient, gender transformative water investments aligned with SDGs on water, energy, food, health and Covid-19 economic recovery plans
- Develop regional, national climate resilient water security investment programmes to improve the investment outlook for water and sanitation as key inputs to employment creation and inclusive growth
- Develop business cases for investments in SDG 6 and undertake economic analysis to determine the real value of proposed investments and their related costs and benefits
- Support countries to integrate water security, gender transformative climate resilience investments in development planning and budgets
- Develop an AIP Water Investment Scorecard to assist countries benchmark progress in water investments
- Develop partnerships, capabilities, knowledge for improved governance and coordination of gender transformative SDG 6 investments with related targets on energy, food and health
- Provide transaction management advisory services and technical assistance in early stage preparation of bankable water projects at regional, transboundary and national level
- Provide transaction management advisory services and technical assistance in early stage preparation of bankable PIDA transboundary water and hydropower projects
- Promote regional integrated regional corridor approach in planning and implementation of transboundary water projects
- Convene annual water investment summit, mobilise finance for bankable projects

### Management, coordination and implementing partners
- Governments, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), River Basin Organisations (RBOs)

### Funding and Budget
- $75 million: GWP Finance Partners (Austria, SIDA, SDC, EU) Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, Adaptation Fund, Development Bank Southern Africa, national governments and other donors