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The Challenge

Harnessing Africa's potential to achieve the Millennium Development Goals

AMIWASH



"Empowering women and ensuring their access to water is good for the woman, good for the family, and good for the nation."
Hon. Ms Buyelwa Sonjica,
 Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry,
 South Africa.



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Hon. Ms Martha Karua, Minister for Water and Irrigation, Kenya

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H.E. Kofi Annan, Secretary General, United Nations

Hon. Ms Maria Mutagamba, AMIWASH Chair



"AMIWASH will assist African countries to achieve their MDGs through coalition building, WASH advocacy, policy development and implementation. We need to be at the forefront of this initiative that includes a group of women Ministers who serve as WASH champions and raise key issues of gender, the role of women in decision-making, capacity building, and educating children about sanitation and hygiene. I am honored to be part of this illustrious group of leaders and I urge all my Ministerial colleagues to join me in this worthwhile cause."

What the Leaders say



AMIWASH supports African countries to achieve this mission by working through advocacy, coalition building, policy development and implementation. AMIWASH promotes inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral collaboration, and involves a broad base of stakeholders in the process. While serving as an advocacy platform at the political level, AMIWASH provides co-ordinated technical and advisory support to governments, promotes

South/South partnerships and maintains a strong reservoir of African water and sanitation experts and professionals. The Initiative is fully owned by African nations, led by African Ministers and African partners, and focuses on African problems and solutions in water, sanitation and hygiene.

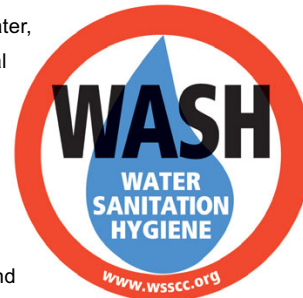
AMIWASH Partners

AMIWASH is currently chaired by Hon. Ms. Maria Mutagamba, Ugandan Minister of State for Water, and Chair of AMCOW. The Initiative is administrated through the Chair's office in Kampala, Uganda.

AMIWASH is closely affiliated to the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), formed in 2002 to develop sound policies and co-ordinate various water and sanitation initiatives in Africa. AMCOW's ultimate goal is to enable access to water and sanitation services to all Africans. It has since established itself as the foremost political vehicle for fronting water issues with a view to contributing to the social and economic development and poverty alleviation in Africa.

AMIWASH and the Global WASH Campaign

AMIWASH builds upon the experiences of the "Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH)" campaign in raising issues of water, sanitation and hygiene high on the political agenda. The global campaign was first launched at the International Conference on Freshwater in Bonn, Germany in 2001. Initially aimed at mobilizing political support for the acceptance of the Sanitation target at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, it has now grown to include many stakeholders working in national WASH campaigns and activities in over 30 countries worldwide. The 13th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in 2005 endorsed the global WASH programme and campaign as policy options for countries to consider in achieving their MDGs.



Global Women Leaders for WASH

Women are generally far more severely affected by inadequate provision of water, sanitation and health care. Yet, all too often, the decisions about the planning, construction and management of water and sanitation facilities are made only by men. As a parallel initiative to AMIWASH, the global initiative "Women Leaders for WASH" is working towards gender equality in the decision-making and management of water supply and sanitation systems world wide. The initiative in collaboration with strong African Women Leaders has started activities in Africa joining forces with AMIWASH to highlight the importance of these issues. Co-convened by Ministers each representing the North and South, Hon. Ms. Maria Mutagamba, Minister of State for Water, Uganda, Hon. Ms. Hilde F. Johnson, Minister for International Development, Norway and Ms Ann Veneman, Executive Director of UNICEF, representing international organisations, the initiative comprises leading women from different sectors, governments, the private sector, the media and the UN system dedicated to improving the sanitation and hygiene situation in the continent while advancing other MDGs in gender equity and eradicating poverty.



For more information on AMIWASH or the Women Leaders for WASH activities in Africa, please contact:





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