

West Africa Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Program (USAID WA-WASH)



USAID PARTICIPATE AND SPONSORS THE THIRD HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL IN AFRICA

From 21 to 23 November 2013, the Intergovernmental Pan African Agency Water and Sanitation for Africa (EAA) organized in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, the third edition of the High Level Forum on Water and Sanitation for all in Africa. USAID is an official sponsor of this exchange of ideas between actors in Africa and elsewhere.

Access to safe water and sanitation remains a major challenge for the development of many African countries. The third edition of the High-Level Forum offers participants the opportunity to reflect on the strategies to ensure sustainable access to basic social services to populations throughout Africa.

During seventy two hours, the participants addressed: *"Promoting a lively cooperation between southern countries to accelerate access to hygiene, sanitation and drinking water for all in Africa."* The theme of the forum.

The official opening ceremony of the forum was chaired by the Prime Minister of Cote d'Ivoire. He praised the choice of the theme which is in line with the United Nations year of international cooperation for water.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has financed for several years, African governments and other actors in the search for sustainable solutions to address the water and sanitation needs of African populations. In her speech at the forum official opening ceremony, Dr. Anne Dix, Regional Director for Environment USAID/West Africa reaffirmed the will of the American people to continue to support Africa.

In addition to communications made by several members of its delegation and animation of an exhibition stand, USAID has supported the participation of 10 people from the public sector, the associative world, the media and a representative of the Water World Youth Parliament.

Over the years, USAID has gained a solid experience in managing projects. In the afternoon of 21 November 2013, the heads of two USAID programs, Dr. Lakhdar Boukerrou (Regional Director WA-WASH/ Program Director Florida International University) and Alberto Wilde (Country Director, Global Communities) and Dr. Anne Dix presented at a session on *"Cooperation between USAID and the African countries for water supply services and sanitation."* Water and sanitation are priority areas for USAID. This choice reflects the needs of the vast majority of African people who do not have access to safe water and sanitation.

Four presentations were made by members USAID delegation, representatives of programs funded by USAID and a USAID WA-WASH partner helped the audience understand the strategy of the USAID interventions. These were: (1) an overview of the USAID Global Development Alliance made by Dr. Anne Dix; (2) the public-private partnership program (PPP) presented by Dr. Lakhdar Boukerrou (WA-WASH); (3) patterns of participation in the provision of urban water and sanitation services: experiences from Ghana made by Alberto Wilde (WASH-UP); and (4) the role of national agencies in public-private partnership: the case of USAID WA-WASH and the National Lottery of Burkina made by Mrs. Mariam Sow on behalf of Mrs. Amelie Tamboura, the Director of National Lottery Burkina Faso.

Participants showed great interest in these presentations and the issues raised. The audience participation indicates that the session was a success because of the quality of the presentations and the positive results obtained by the USAID funded programs in the region.



Dr. Anne Dix, the President of WSA Ministers Council, His Excellency the Prime Minister of Ivory Coast



A view of the audience during the presentation of USAID WA-WASH



The members of the USAID panel, Mrs. Sow, Alberto Wilde, Anne Dix, and Lakhdar Boukerrou