

TITLE : WATER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY

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STATEMENT/INPUTS:

The water sector in Africa is very sensitive to changes in Climate and prolonged climate variability. Climate change is expected to alter the hydrological cycle, temperature balance, and rainfall patterns across Africa and thus has the potential to add to existing pressure on water availability, accessibility and demand, thereby affecting economic development, ecosystems, and biodiversity. Even in the absence of climate change, present population trends and patterns of water use indicate that more countries in Africa will exceed the limits of their economically impacts on water resources before 2025. However, climate change will not have uniform impacts on water across the continent. In some part, it will aggravate water stress while in others it will reduce it. Water management is a pressing challenge, which if not concerns for the water sector in Africa include the limited access to water, including groundwater, and limited governance capacity. Limited access is a result of insufficient infrastructure to provide reliable supplies of water for drinking, agriculture, and other uses.

Observational evidence shows that many vital sources of water in Africa, including lakes, rivers and snow-covered mountains are under pressure. Although part of the cause may be blamed on greatly increasing demand, climate change and climate variability are clearly putting significant pressure on Africa's water resources. The future impact of climate on water resources remains uncertain but some of the challenges Africa faces are clear.

Only 64% of the the potentially available water in Africa has been developed to date. Many countries ,however, will shift from water surplus to water scarcity between now and 2025. Water supply utilities have major challenges in coping with inadequate and poorly maintained supply networks, and the vulnerability of many water systems to droughts and floods. Water supply and sanitation can be improved with increased financing, enhanced public-private partnerships empowerment of women and special help for rural populations.

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