

Water *for* Cities

WATER AND SANITATION IN AFRICA:
SOLUTIONS AND SCENARIOS

Of all our natural resources,
**water underpins sustainable development
as perhaps none other.**

*Food, energy, health, industry, biodiversity—there is no sphere of
planetary life or human endeavor untouched by water.¹*

One of the World's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 6) focuses on water,
and calls for **ensuring access to water and sanitation for all.**

Sub-Sahara Africa
can address the
strong growth in water
demand expected for
2030 and meet SDG6
provided it starts
addressing its current
water challenges and
embraces opportunities
that **improved
wastewater
management**
can provide.³

Stormwater harvesting
can have multiple benefits as an alternative untapped
water supply source which can improve water
security for cities. If not treated to potable
standards, it can be used for irrigation.²

By simply **fixing leaks** in
our global urban supply systems
we can save **32 billion** cubic
meters of treated water each year.⁴

**Investments in
small-scale projects**
that provide access to safe water and basic
sanitation in Africa could return an estimated economic
gain of approximately US\$28.4 billion a year, or 5% of GDP,
based on a 2016 report.⁵

In Africa,
under-collection
of water bills has
been estimated at
US\$500 million
per year. Improving
**the collection
rate of water
bills** is an obvious
way of increasing
water revenues
without raising
tariffs.⁶

**New and innovative finance
mechanisms and models**
are required to support operation and maintenance of existing water and sanitation
infrastructure and investment in new infrastructure for our shared urban future.

1 <https://wle.cgiar.org/thrive/2015/09/21/water-flows-through-sdgs>

2 Carden, K. & L. Fisher-Jeffes. 2017. Stormwater harvesting could help South Africa manage its water shortages. Available at: <http://theconversation.com/stormwater-harvesting-could-help-south-africa-manage-its-water-shortages-74377>

3 UNWater. 2017. The United Nations Water Development Report 2017: Facts and Figures. Wastewater the Untapped Resource. Available at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002475/247553e.pdf>

4 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) 2014 cited in World Bank. 2016. "High & Dry: Climate Change,

Water and the Economy". World Bank, Washington, D.C. License: Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 3.0 IGO.

5 (UNEP, n.d.), cited in UNWater. 2016. The United Nations World Water Development Report 2016: Water & Jobs: Facts and Figures. Available at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002440/244041e.pdf>

6 United Nations World Water Assessment Programme. 2012. World Water Development Report 4: Managing Water under Uncertainty and Risk: Facts and Figures