

# AU-AIP AFRICA WATER INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2025

13 - 15 August 2025  
Cape Town, South Africa



## AU AIP WATER INVESTMENT SUMMIT: PROJECT SHOWCASE

PROGRAMME/ PROJECT OVERVIEW	
Project name	GAFA -Water Investment Projects Pipeline for the Horn of Africa
Location (Country, Region, Coordinates)	Horn of Africa /IGAD member states
Involved countries (if regional)	Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti and Uganda
Sub-Sector (Water Supply, Sanitation, Irrigation, Flood Management..)	Water supply, sanitation, irrigation, livestock, ecosystems, industry, tourism
Project description (Goals and expected outcomes)	<p>The Groundwater Access Facility (GAFA) that was founded in March 2023 during the UN Water Conference in New York. The Groundwater Access Facility (GaFa) is a transformative effort designed to tap into these extensive groundwater reserves, providing reliable water sources for drinking, agriculture, mining and industry. By focusing on a multilateral and multi-partner approach to sustainable development and management of the groundwater. the GaFa has proven in the Horn of Africa to be an effective step towards improving access to water resources and enhancing regional cooperation and groundwater diplomacy.</p> <p>Under GAFA, we do our work under four pillars:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ground water assessment and Data management</li> <li>2. Investment and pipeline development</li> <li>3. Governance and transboundary cooperation</li> <li>4. Institutional Strengthening and capacity building</li> </ol> <p>Under Pillar II, we are developing a Water investment pipeline under the Ground Access Facility for the Horn of Africa, of 50 large scale projects ranging from 50 to 100 million USD to supply water for domestic use, livestock, irrigation and manufacturing. These are projects from the eighth member states in the IGAD region. The Pipeline is ready and is seeking investment for projects submitted and is interested in various financing products (Loan/Equity/Grant/Guarantee/insurance) for various projects which are also at various development stages.</p>
Technological details/ innovation	The Investment pipeline is seeking to promote a review of gaps and our investments that could be made at the programme level to address those concerns adopting integrated programming of water energy, food and ecosystems nexus, circular economy and climate resilience approaches.
Governance improvements / innovation	The pipeline operationalization will address the governance aspects under pillar iii and will encourage co-creation of the programme allowing including and adoption best practices and innovation in water resources

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	management and development. We are seeking to promote the development of finance for the facility in such a way that it raises funds that augment those made available to the other states. Investments will be labelled as such in the planning process.
<b>IMPLEMENTATION &amp; KEY PLAYERS</b>	
Lead institution	UNDP Resilience Hub for Africa and IGAD
Implementing agent(s)	UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, WFP, FAO, IFIs and private foundations, governments and private sector
Sponsors / Investors / Contractors / Advisors	UNDP and UNICEF as sponsors World Bank, Children Investment Fund Foundation as primary investors IRC WASH as a contractor.
<b>PROJECT TIMELINE &amp; DEVELOPMENT STAGE</b>	
Year of preparation, estimated start & end dates	June 2024 to August 2025
Current development stage	Final stage of development and now looking for investment to cover some projects components that respond to the investors interests and governments priorities.
<b>PROJECT RATIONALE &amp; STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE</b>	
Alignment with national/regional plans, SDGs, Agenda 2063	The pipeline was developed in consultations with regional bodies namely IGAD and the respective ministries in charge of water resources, sanitation, energy, irrigation, and environment from member countries.  SDGs: 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,13,16,17
Contribution to NDC's and alignment with NAPs / Adaptation and Mitigation measures	The projects were developed to contribute to NDC's and alignment with NAPs / Adaptation and Mitigation measures
Paradigm shift potential (scalability, replicability, policy or behaviour change)	Yes, the projects were designed to ensure scalability and address policy and behavior aspects.
<b>FINANCIAL &amp; INVESTMENT DETAILS</b>	
Total project cost, currency	USD 2 billion
Funding already raised (amount & sources)	550 000 USD from WBG 5 000 000 USD from CIFF 1 000 000 USD from UNDP
Proposed revenue model	Need to be detailed during feasibility studies
Financial metrics (IRR, Payback Period, DSCR, NPV) available? Y/N, date	Need to be detailed during feasibility studies
Economic performance (Benefit-Cost Ratio) Y/N, date	Need to be detailed during feasibility studies
<b>INVESTMENT ASK &amp; WAY FORWARD</b>	

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Remaining investment required: project component & type (Loan/Equity/Grant/Guarantee/insurance)	The pipeline will be looking for all sorts of financing (Loan/Equity/Grant/Guarantee/insurance) depending on the needs per project
Opportunity for bundling with other projects (Y/N, date)	yes
Next steps	With the completion of the pipeline development, the facility has started engaging various potential investors and respective governments for a matchmaking that allows discussions and joint programming on projects with shared interests.
<b>TARGET GROUPS &amp; SOCIAL IMPACT</b>	
Direct beneficiary population per project component (if available, please provide estimated by income status, gender, ethnicity and/or other status, and numbers of each)	Need to be detailed during feasibility studies
Social & gender impact assessment (Y/N, date)	For some projects they are there and for others, they will be detailed during feasibility studies
Job creation estimate / local economic benefit assessment (Y/N, date)	Need to be detailed during feasibility studies
<b>SUSTAINABILITY &amp; ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS</b>	
Environmental compliance & climate assessment (Y/N, date)	Some projects have them. Others, they will be detailed during feasibility studies
Environmental impact assessment (Y/N, date)	Some projects have them. Others, they will be detailed during feasibility studies
ESG performance (Y/N, date)	Not yet
Safeguards & community engagement (Y/N, date)	Some projects have them. Others, they will be detailed during feasibility studies
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	
Main risks & mitigation measures (Political, Legal, etc)	Need to be detailed during feasibility studies per project
Constraints or bottlenecks to finance	Need to be detailed during feasibility studies per project
<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>	
AIP Secretariat	info@aipwater.org