



This year, EAA is celebrating 35 years of presence in the water and sanitation sector in Africa.

Since 1988, the EAA Agency has been able to develop expertise, widely recognized across the continent, in action research, training and capacity building of stakeholders and the dissemination of information on hygiene issues, water and sanitation.

Over the years, it has positioned itself as a key player in the water and sanitation

I. EAA, 35 years of actions in favour of the water and sanitation sector in Africa:

Historical journey

In 1988, at the end of the International Water Decade, faced with an increasingly worrying problem of access to water and sanitation due to population growth and insufficient capacity funding and the lack of appropriate technologies in the sector, CREPA was set up with headquarters in Burkina Faso.

Its main mission at the time was to provide answers to technological problems.

A mission that he carried out between 1988 and 1992 through the development of autonomous sanitation technologies, community waste management and support for small operators.

Between 1993 and 1996, the organization marked a shift with the adoption of a holistic approach integrating in particular the participation of the populations, the approaches to promoting HAEP and the strengthening of the capacities of the actors.

The appropriation of CREPA programs by the States, which took place in 1997, gave the organization its fundamentally African dimension with the establishment of a public interest institution in place of the associative organization known until then.

States then become more involved in steering the organization through the Council of Ministers, CREPA intervenes more in national programs and supports States in the formulation of policies and strategies.

Between 2006 and 2010, it was a move to the continental scale based on the numerous research results recorded during the first eighteen years.

We then witness a strong involvement of the organization in supporting the decentralization process, the implementation of programs at the scale of large cities and the integration of the problem of HIV AIDS and aspects linked to gender.

The institution is also interested in achieving the MDGs and makes links with other sectors.

In 2011, the institution marked a decisive turning point in its evolution. Following the reforms initiated by the Council of Ministers, the now ex CREPA gives way to the Pan-African Intergovernmental Water and Sanitation Agency for Africa: EAA

The mission of the new organization is based on a multi-sectoral approach to promoting sustainable and equitable access for African populations to water and sanitation services through the development of integrated, innovative and sustainable solutions.

It supports African countries in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies, strategies and initiatives as well as the mobilization of financial resources and innovative skills.

It has a new organizational structure with three operational bodies: the EAA Foundation, the Research and Skills Center and the Execution Agency.

II. Some remarkable achievements!

During these 25 years of intervention on the continent, the institution has invested in the implementation of various projects and programs to the tune of approximately 70 billion CFA francs.

At the same time, it facilitated a financial contribution to the water and sanitation sector of around 550 billion CFA francs.

EAA has therefore promoted access to water and sanitation services to at least twenty-five (25) million beneficiaries across more than 32 African countries.

More than 3,000 actors in the water and sanitation, education and local authorities sectors have seen their capacities strengthened thanks to the institution's actions. As part of action research activities and through partnerships, EAA has developed or identified and tested around thirty technologies and approaches in the water and sanitation sector. Between 2011 and 2015 the ambition is to promote access to water and sanitation services for around 50 billion Africans.

III. The main results of the institutional reforms of 2011

The reforms undertaken in 2011 aimed to reorient its intervention approaches and methods in line with the new challenges and issues of the water and sanitation sector in Africa. The major stages and achievements of these reforms can be summarized in three main areas:

Institutional reforms - with the establishment of the Pan-African Intergovernmental Agency called Water and Sanitation for Africa, EAA in French and WSA in English, in place of the former Regional Center for Drinking Water and Sanitation Low cost. During the two years following the reforms, the institution expanded its geographic coverage from 18 to 32 countries. Support for member countries has also intensified with the signing of Headquarters Agreements and Program Contracts. The institution has expanded its network of partners, particularly in emerging southern countries. Three specialized bodies have been set up:

The Business and Investment Group: whose mission is to create investment opportunities and promote the acceleration of the establishment of efficient infrastructure in Africa with a view to strengthening the capacities of players in the HAEP sector.

The Research and Competence Center: which aims to develop and promote approaches and technologies in the fields of water and sanitation but also responsible human capital and promoter of change in the countries Africans.

The EAA Foundation: which is a non-profit social entity whose mission is to promote the development of every African through access to innovative and sustainable water and sanitation services.

A new intervention approach

This approach began with the development of a strategic plan for the period 2011-2015. This strategic plan is essentially based on the multiplication of interventions through the development of more than a hundred projects and the implementation of new commercial strategies for financing water and sanitation services. The projects in question now include a new dimension, namely the promotion of social housing integrating appropriate water and sanitation infrastructure.

Since the start of the implementation of this strategic plan, the institution has recorded, across member countries, 10 million new users of water and sanitation services thanks to its programs.

Innovative financing methods

The institution, in view of the financing gap recorded in the water and sanitation sector in Africa, has set itself the ambition of mobilizing some 125 billion CFA francs for the various member countries. This led to the development of a new strategy for mobilizing financial resources.

The inclusion of economic and financial models in support of traditional charitable models is one of the institution's innovations to mobilize more financial resources for the HAEP sector. This should constitute a significant complement to traditional grant-based financing, which has demonstrated its limitations in solving problems in Africa's HAEP sector.

This strategy is essentially based on the multiplication and diversification of sources of financing. In this context, the institution has developed numerous initiatives and was able to mobilize more than 22 billion FCFA in two years. Among these initiatives we can cite the ICON (Initiative Let's Count on Ourselves which bases its intervention on the appropriation of the financing of services by the communities), the business plans which have made it possible to prove the profitability of the investment in the sanitation sector in particular (development of economic models, etc.)

IV. The High Level Forum on Water and Sanitation for All

EAA initiated, 3 years ago, the High Level Forum for Water and Sanitation for All in Africa (FHN) in order to provide various decision-makers and stakeholders in the sector on the continent with a platform for exchange and influence with the aim of promoting concrete decisions and actions in favor of the HAEP. The main objective of the FHN is to support African governments in identifying sustainable and innovative solutions for accelerating access to HAEP and reducing poverty in Africa. The High Level Forum does not wish to constitute another platform for defining new commitments or recommendations but rather a meeting for decision-making and concrete actions.

Specific objectives of the High Level Forum

Significantly reduce the delay in the HAEP sector and define in a participatory manner the ways and means to provide sustainable water and sanitation services to the populations. The forum aims to support African governments in operationalizing their commitments to HAEP through the sharing of lessons learned and good practices.

Invite African decision-makers, researchers, donors, innovators and investors around a common platform of mutual aid and win-win collaboration with the aim of improving people's access to health services. water and sanitation.

Promote the development and operationalization of partnerships for the implementation of innovative programs and initiatives in the HAEP sector in Africa.

In conclusion, WSA looks forward to discuss the areas of cooperation and be present at the COP29 and make this mission more successful.