

# **GWP webinar on Corona related effects on the water and sanitation sector in Africa**

**Monday 18th May 2020**

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**Executive Director**

## 1. Introduction

## 2. Effects of the pandemic on African water utilities / service provision

How companies are managed under the current conditions of the fight against the spread of COVID-19:

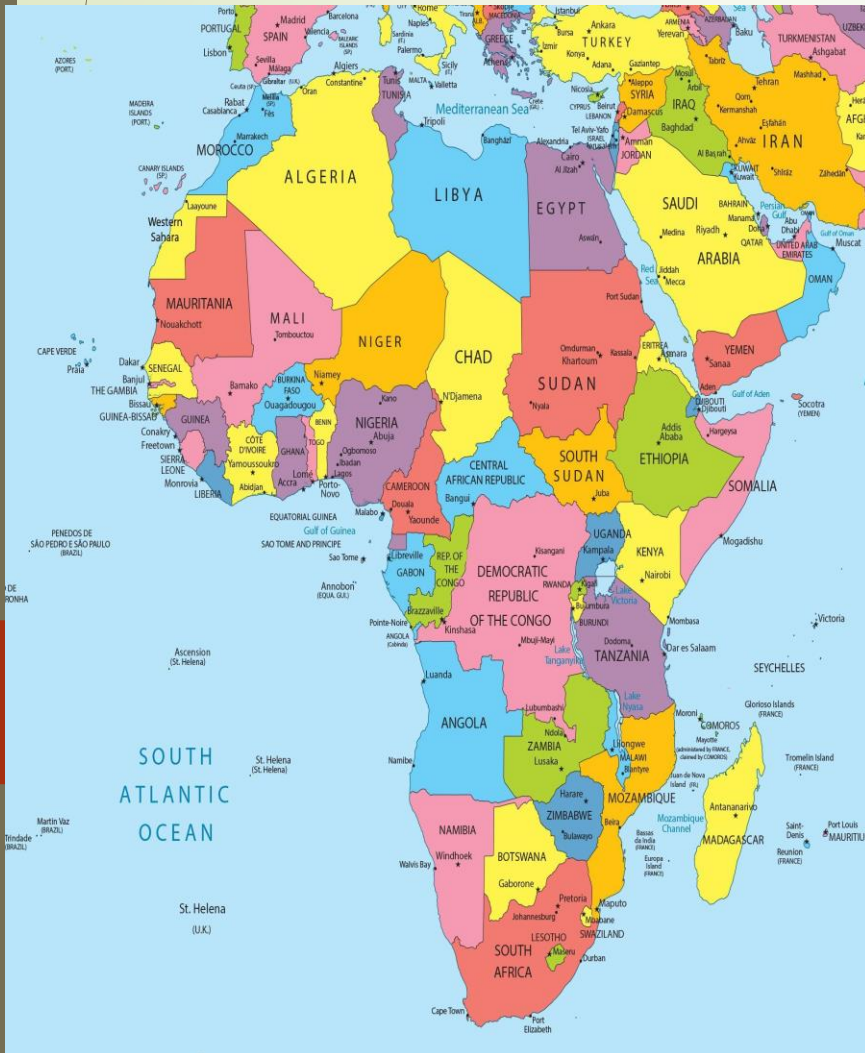
- a) The measures that the governments have put in place
- b) The specific recommendations that the government has made to water and sanitation operators
- c) The organization set up within the companies
  1. Technical Management of works
  2. Inventory management
  3. Commercial management and customer relations
  4. Demand management
  5. The management of workers (in telework, or on site, psychological state, management of teams in the field, etc.)
  6. The use of innovative technologies

## 3. Effects of the corona crisis on the African economy, particularly the water and sanitation related economy

- ✚ Africa Global Economy
  - Travel and Tourism
  - Domestic movements
  - Lower commodity prices
- ✚ The African Development Bank leading role
- ✚ Rapid urbanization a major issue ,
- ✚ The situation of deferred payment or even for some countries free water supplies
- ✚ African governments need to put vigorous strategies in place

## 4. In conclusion : What are the Water and sanitation business opportunities that could result from the current situation

# 1. Introduction



- ❑ Africa is the second largest and most populated continent in the world,
- ❑ Estimated population of 1.34 billion people by 2020.
- ❑ The African continent has a total of 54 countries, representing about a quarter of the world's countries.
- ❑ Populations per countries range from just over 1 million to more than 200 million people.
- ❑ 400 million Africans do not have access to safe water and nearly 800 million do not have access to basic hand washing facilities, a major challenge while facing COVID-19
- ❑ The frequent handwashing with soap and water is, according to the WHO, the ultimate barrier measure to slow the progress of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❑ In the context of the current health crisis, the lack of water and sanitation is clearly a factor in exacerbating the contagion. Water professionals are essential to public health.



# AFRICA COVID-19 INFECTION SITUATION

Last Updated: 17 mai 2020

Cases

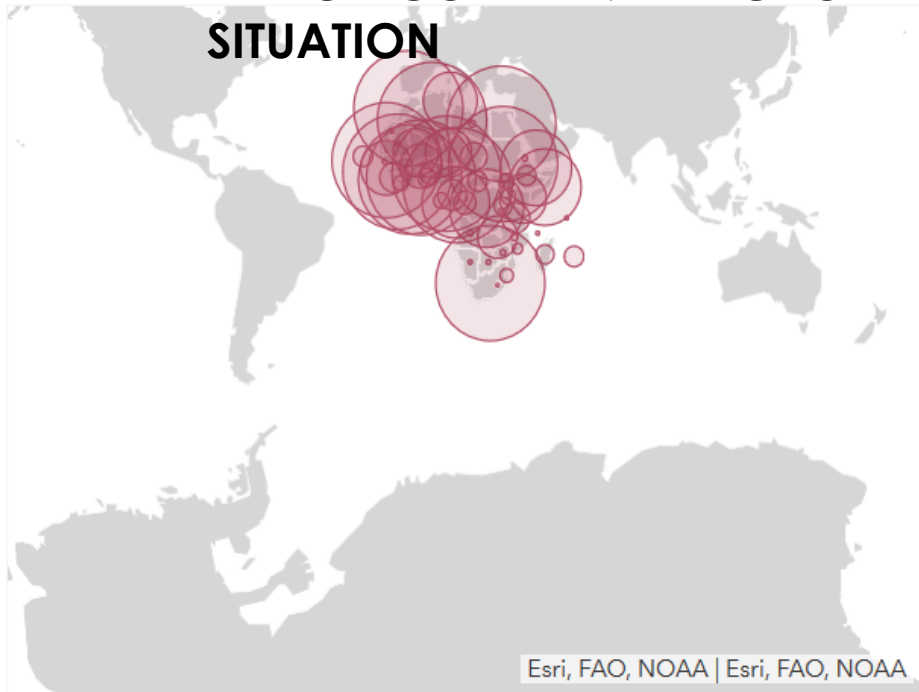
81 882

Deaths

2 715

Recoveries

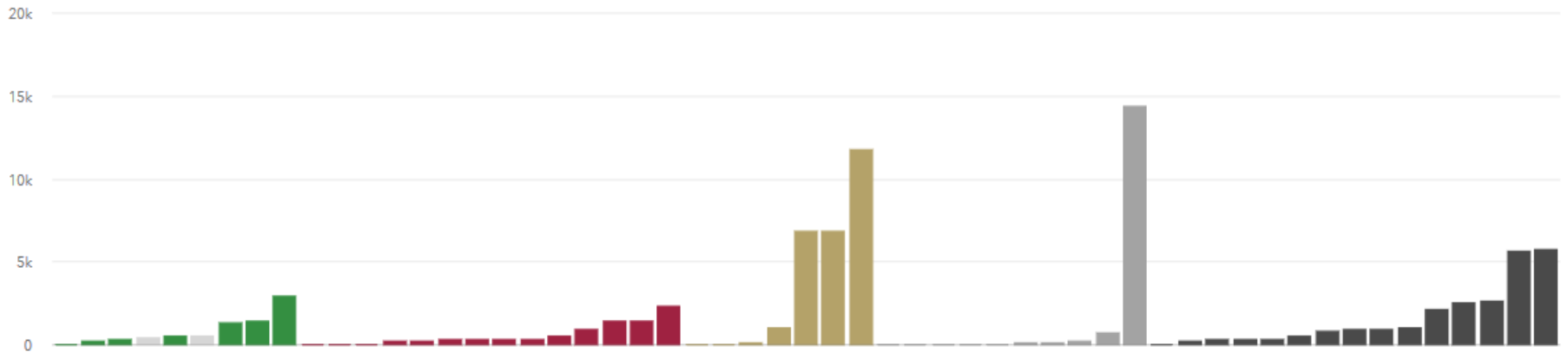
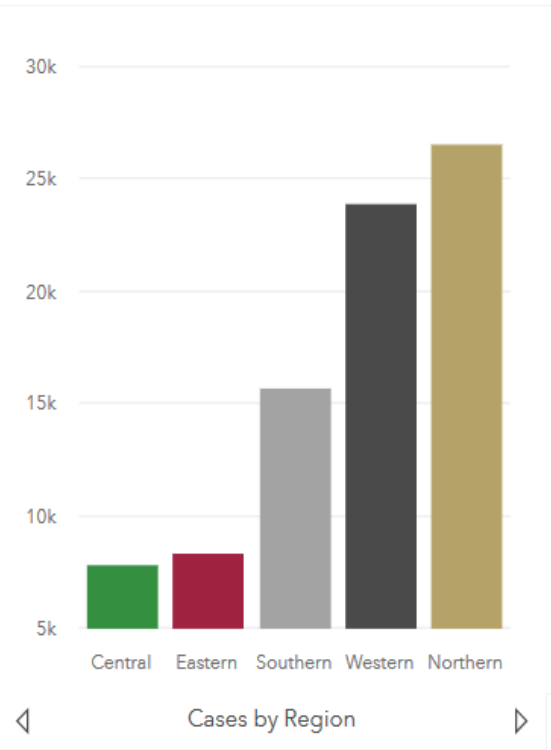
31 399



Map of Cumulative Cases

Légende de la carte

Citation



Cases by Country

Deaths by Country

Recoveries by Country

## 2. Effects of the pandemic on African water utilities / service provision

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## 2. Effects of the pandemic on African water utilities / service provision

How companies are managed under the current conditions of the fight against the spread of COVID-19:

### a) The measures that the governments have put in place

- Setting up a safety and watch committee comprising at first hand the Ministry of Health
- The putting in place of barrier measures
- Closing borders for most countries
- Quarantine of infected people

All these measures have led to the temporary closure of many commercial and industrial activities

### b) The specific recommendations that governments have made to water and sanitation operators

- water operators have been asked by their government to organize themselves to ensure the 24/7 provision of water to all;
- It was requested to suspend disconnections and to reconnect disconnected customers for non-payment of bills.
- The assumption of the bills of some small consumers by the state
- In terms of sanitation services the operators have not received any specific recommendations from governments,

## 2. Effects of the pandemic on African water utilities / service provision

How companies are managed under the current conditions of the fight against the spread of COVID-19:

c) **The organization set up within the company with the objective of ensuring at all costs the continuity of water service in quality and quantity:**

### **1. Technical Management of works**

- Putting in place optimized maintenance and troubleshooting plans.
- Upgrading of electro pumps to ensure continuity of service
- Upgrading and strengthening the protection of catchment areas.
- Strengthening the number of generators to cope with eventual power outages.
- Development of remote management
- The installation of new reservoirs in some hospitals where COVID-19 patients are cared for.
- Development of in situ water quality monitoring and decentralization of water quality laboratories.

### **2. Inventory management**

- Setting up a 3 to 12-month contingency stock
- Reviewed procurement procedures to speed up deliveries
- Local manufacture of water treatment chemicals to ensure continuity of supply.

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### **3. Commercial management and customer relation**

- The assumption of the bills of some small consumers by the state and in some cases the total free consumption before and during the health crisis
- Most companies have not adopted free consumption. However, they offer payment facilities ranging from progressive payment to the reporting of payment deadlines without penalty.
- The suspension of customer provision interruption for the duration of the health crisis, and reconnecting suspended provision to indelicate customers
- Promoting online self-billing services and online bill payment services as well as remote meter reading.

### **4. Demand management**

- - Reorientation of flows in residential areas due to self or forced-lockdown.
- - Increase in tankers to meet demand in peri-urban areas not yet connected .



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### **5. The management of workers**

- Reducing staff and setting to teleworking some of the staff. The essential staff stays on site.
- Access to operational and production sites are highly regulated
- Staff awareness of the barrier gesture and implementation of procedures for entry into the work site, temperature taking, Wearing of mask made mandatory as well as distancing
- Setting separate teams in charge of pumping sites with lockdown opportunities on site with, in some cases food supplies, treatment products and emergency care kit at operating and pumping sites

### **6. The use of innovative technologies**

- Mostly remote management, leading to the need for operators to strengthen remote monitoring and remote management equipment. Whether it is remote meter reading, remote payment, remote claims, etc..

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#### Africa global Economy

Predictions from UNECA : COVID-19 may reduce the continent's expected economic growth from 3.2% to 1.8%..

With Europe and the United States — both major sources of development finance and remittances to Africa — now at the epicenter of the virus, its economic impact is expected to be worse than imagined at the beginning.

- Travel and Tourism will impact african economy seriously
- Domestic movements severely limited in many countries reducing oil demand impacting exporter countries
- Lower commodity prices will reduce significantly governments' revenues

### 3. Effects of the corona crisis on the African economy, particularly the water and sanitation related economy

#### ✚ The African Development Bank leading role

- COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND: Main channel for efforts to address the crisis with up to \$10 billion for governments and the private sector.
- Over the past decade, the Bank has invested approximately \$6.2 billion in water and sanitation services and raised approximately \$150 million in climate financing from the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund to co-finance water projects. As a result, about 52 million Africans have had access to improved water and sanitation services.

#### ✚ Rapid urbanization a major issue ,

- By 2050, more than 1.6 billion Africans will live in urban cities and slums.
- Over the next few years, the population will double in about 100 major cities.

#### ✚ The situation of deferred bill payments or even free water supplies

- This could have a serious impact on the finances of fragile companies in terms of financial resources

### 3. Effects of the corona crisis on the African economy, particularly the water and sanitation related economy

✚ African Governments need to put vigorous strategies in place

Among the solutions:

1. **Increase investment in water** : Approximately \$10 billion to \$15 billion per year will be needed to provide safe drinking water to the entire population and provide basic sanitation (World Bank) services.
1. **Ensuring the financial viability of water utilities**: A recent World Bank study on the performance of water services in Africa finds that half of the region's public services do not have the revenues to cover their operating and maintenance costs



## 4. In conclusion

### What are the Water and sanitation business opportunities that could result from the current situation

- ✓ Tele-conference tools
- ✓ Remote control of works
- ✓ On-site water quality control with data transmission to a central server from which decisions can be taken.
- ✓ The identification and management of works by GPS via mobile.
- ✓ The local manufacturing of water treatment products.
- ✓ Promoting business management through mobile applications
- ✓ Wastewater reuse: For many countries, wastewater management has become an important way to meet water demand, especially in urban areas where market garden grow and to provide vital food to the city's residents.

Thank you